

**European Convention for Protection of Human Rights and
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| 1 | The European Convention on Human Rights - Convention for Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms | Article 1 | 10 |
| 2 | Preamble | The High Contracting Parties shall secure to everyone within their jurisdiction the rights and freedoms defined in Section I of this Convention. | 11 |
| 3 | The Governments signatory hereto, being Members of the Council of Europe, | Section I | 12 |
| 4 | Considering the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10th December 1948; | Article 2 | 13 |
| 5 | Considering that this Declaration aims at securing the universal and effective recognition and observance of the Rights therein declared; | 1. Everyone's right to life shall be protected by law. No one shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of a sentence of a court following his conviction of a crime for which this penalty is provided by law. | 14 |
| 6 | Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is the achievement of greater unity between its Members and that one of the methods by which that aim is to be pursued is the maintenance and further realisation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; | 2. Deprivation of life shall not be regarded as inflicted in contravention of this article when it results from the use of force which is no more than absolutely necessary: | 15 |
| 7 | Reaffirming their profound belief in those Fundamental Freedoms which are the foundation of justice and peace in the world and are best maintained on the one hand by an effective political democracy and on the other by a common understanding and observance of the Human Rights upon which they depend; | (a) in defence of any person from unlawful violence; | 16 |
| 8 | Being resolved, as the Governments of European countries which are like-minded and have a common heritage of political traditions, ideals, freedom and the rule of law, to take the first steps for the collective enforcement of certain of the Rights stated in the Universal Declaration, | (b) in order to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained; | 17 |
| 9 | Have agreed as follows: | (c) in action lawfully taken for the purpose of quelling a riot or insurrection. | 18 |
| | | Article 3 | 19 |
| | | No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. | 20 |
| | | Article 4 | 21 |
| | | 1. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude. | 22 |

| | | | |
|----|---|--|----|
| 23 | 2. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour. | (d) the detention of a minor by lawful order for the purpose of educational supervision or his lawful detention for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority; | 35 |
| 24 | 3. For the purpose of this article the term "forced or compulsory labour" shall not include: | (e) the lawful detention of persons for the prevention of the spreading of infectious diseases, of persons of unsound mind, alcoholics or drug addicts or vagrants; | 36 |
| 25 | (a) any work required to be done in the ordinary course of detention imposed according to the provisions of Article 5 of this Convention or during conditional release from such detention; | (f) the lawful arrest or detention of a person to prevent his effecting an unauthorised entry into the country or of a person against whom action is being taken with a view to deportation or extradition. | 37 |
| 26 | (b) any service of a military character or, in case of conscientious objectors in countries where they are recognised, service exacted instead of compulsory military service; | 2. Everyone who is arrested shall be informed promptly, in a language which he understands, of the reasons for his arrest and of any charge against him. | 38 |
| 27 | (c) any service exacted in case of an emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community; | 3. Everyone arrested or detained in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1(c) of this article shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorised by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release pending trial. Release may be conditioned by guarantees to appear for trial. | 39 |
| 28 | (d) any work or service which forms part of normal civic obligations. | 4. Everyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release ordered if the detention is not lawful. | 40 |
| 29 | Article 5 | 5. Everyone who has been the victim of arrest or detention in contravention of the provisions of this article shall have an enforceable right to compensation. | 41 |
| 30 | 1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. | | |
| 31 | No one shall be deprived of his liberty save in the following cases and in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law: | | |
| 32 | (a) the lawful detention of a person after conviction by a competent court; | | |
| 33 | (b) the lawful arrest or detention of a person for non-compliance with the lawful order of a court or in order to secure the fulfilment of any obligation prescribed by law; | | |
| 34 | (c) the lawful arrest or detention of a person effected for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority on reasonable suspicion of having committed an offence or when it is reasonably considered necessary to prevent his committing an offence or fleeing after having done so; | Article 6 | 42 |
| | | 1. In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and im- | 43 |

partial tribunal established by law. Judgment shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interests of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.

44 2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.

45 3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:

46 (a) to be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;

47 (b) to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence;

48 (c) to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;

49 (d) to examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;

50 (e) to have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

51 **Article 7**

52 1. No one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account

of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence under national or international law at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the criminal offence was committed.

2. This article shall not prejudice the trial and punishment of any person for any act or omission which, at the time when it was committed, was criminal according to the general principles of law recognised by civilised nations. 53

Article 8 54

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence. 55

2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. 56

Article 9 57

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance. 58

2. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the 59

protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

of others. This article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces, of the police or of the administration of the State.

60 Article 10

61 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.

62 2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

63 Article 11

64 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

65 2. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of these rights other than such as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms

Article 12

Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry and to found a family, according to the national laws governing the exercise of this right.

Article 13

Everyone whose rights and freedoms as set forth in this Convention are violated shall have an effective remedy before a national authority notwithstanding that the violation has been committed by persons acting in an official capacity.

Article 14

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

Article 15

1. In time of war or other public emergency threatening the life of the nation any High Contracting Party may take measures derogating from its obligations under this Convention to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, provided that such mea-

asures are not inconsistent with its other obligations under international law.

74 2. No derogation from Article 2, except in respect of deaths resulting from lawful acts of war, or from Articles 3, 4 (paragraph 1) and 7 shall be made under this provision.

75 3. Any High Contracting Party availing itself of this right of derogation shall keep the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe fully informed of the measures which it has taken and the reasons therefor. It shall also inform the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe when such measures have ceased to operate and the provisions of the Convention are again being fully executed.

76 **Article 16**

77 Nothing in Articles 10, 11, and 14 shall be regarded as preventing the High Contracting Parties from imposing restrictions on the political activity of aliens.

78 **Article 17**

79 Nothing in this Convention may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein or at their limitation to a greater extent than is provided for in the Convention.

80 **Article 18**

81 The restrictions permitted under this Convention to the said rights and freedoms shall not be applied for any purpose other than those for which they have been prescribed.

Section II

Article 19

To ensure the observance of the engagements undertaken by the High Contracting Parties in the present Convention, there shall be set up:

(a) a European Commission of Human Rights, hereinafter referred to as "the Commission";

(b) a European Court of Human Rights, hereinafter referred to as "the Court".

Section III

Article 20

*1

1. The Commission shall consist of a number of members equal to that of the High Contracting Parties. No two members of the Commission may be nationals of the same State.

2. The Commission shall sit in plenary session. It may, however, set up Chambers, each composed of at least seven members. The Chambers may examine petitions submitted under Article 25 of this Convention which can be dealt with on the basis of established case law or which raise no serious question affecting the interpretation or application of the Convention. Subject to this restriction and to the provisions of paragraph 5 of this article, the Chambers shall exercise all the powers conferred on the Commission by the Convention.

The member of the Commission elected in respect of a High Contracting Party against which a petition has been lodged shall have the right to sit on a Chamber to which the petition has been referred.

93 3. The Commission may set up committees, each composed of at least three members, with the power, exercisable by a unanimous vote, to declare inadmissible or strike from its list of cases a petition submitted under Article 25, when such a decision can be taken without further examination.

94 4. A chamber or committee may at any time relinquish jurisdiction in favour of the plenary Commission which may also order the transfer to it of any petition referred to a Chamber or committee.

95 5. Only the plenary Commission can exercise the following powers:

96 (a) the examination of applications submitted under Article 24;

97 (b) the bringing of a case before the Court in accordance with Article 48.a;

98 (c) the drawing up of rules of procedure in accordance with Article 36.

99 Article 21

100 *2

101 1. The members of the Commission shall be elected by the Committee of Ministers by an absolute majority of votes, from a list of

¹Text amended according to the provisions of Protocol No. 8 (ETS No. 118) which entered into force on 1 January 1990.

²Text amended according to the provisions of Protocol No. 8 (ETS No. 118) which entered into force on 1 January 1990.

92 names drawn up by the Bureau of the Consultative Assembly; each group of the Representatives of the High Contracting Parties in the Consultative Assembly shall put forward three candidates, of whom two at least shall be its nationals.

2. As far as applicable, the same procedure shall be followed to complete the Commission in the event of other States subsequently becoming Parties to this Convention, and in filling casual vacancies. 102

3. The candidates shall be of high moral character and must either possess the qualifications required for appointment to high judicial office or be persons of recognised competence in national or international law. 103

Article 22 104

*3 105

1. The members of the Commission shall be elected for a period of six years. They may be re-elected. However, of the members elected at the first election, the terms of seven members shall expire at the end of three years. 106

2. The members whose terms are to expire at the end of the initial period of three years shall be chosen by lot by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe immediately after the first election has been completed. 107

3. In order to ensure that, as far as possible, one half of the membership of the Commission shall be renewed every three years, the Committee of Ministers may decide, before proceeding to any subsequent election, that the term or terms of office of one or more 108

³Text amended according to the provisions of Protocol No. 5 (ETS No. 55) which entered into force on 20 December 1971.

members to be elected shall be for a period other than six years but not more than nine and not less than three years.

109 4. In cases where more than one term of office is involved and the Committee of Ministers applies the preceding paragraph, the allocation of the terms of office shall be effected by the drawing of lots by the Secretary-General, immediately after the election.

110 5. A member of the Commission elected to replace a member whose term of office has not expired shall hold office for the remainder of his predecessor's term.

111 6. The members of the Commission shall hold office until replaced. After having been replaced, they shall continue to deal with such cases as they already have under consideration.

112 Article 23

113 *4

114 The members of the Commission shall sit on the Commission in their individual capacity. During their term of office they shall not hold any position which is incompatible with their independence and impartiality as members of the Commission or the demands of this office.

115 Article 24

116 Any High Contracting Party may refer to the Commission, through the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, any alleged breach of the provisions of the Convention by another High Contracting Party.

⁴Same as footnote 1: Text amended according to the provisions of Protocol No. 8 (ETS No. 118) which entered into force on 1 January 1990.

Article 25

117
118 1. The Commission may receive petitions addressed to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe from any person, non-governmental organisation or group of individuals claiming to be the victim of a violation by one of the High Contracting Parties of the rights set forth in this Convention, provided that the High Contracting Party against which the complaint has been lodged has declared that it recognises the competence of the Commission to receive such petitions. Those of the High Contracting Parties who have made such a declaration undertake not to hinder in any way the effective exercise of this right.

119 2. Such declarations may be made for a specific period.

120 3. The declarations shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe who shall transmit copies thereof to the High Contracting Parties and publish them.

121 4. The Commission shall only exercise the powers provided for in this article when at least six High Contracting Parties are bound by declarations made in accordance with the preceding paragraphs.

Article 26

122
123 The Commission may only deal with the matter after all domestic remedies have been exhausted, according to the generally recognised rules of international law, and within a period of six months from the date on which the final decision was taken.

Article 27

124
125 1. The Commission shall not deal with any petition submitted under Article 25 which:

- 126 (a) is anonymous, or
- 127 (b) is substantially the same as a matter which has already been examined by the Commission or has already been submitted to another procedure of international investigation or settlement and if it contains no relevant new information.
- 128 2. The Commission shall consider inadmissible any petition submitted under Article 25 which it considers incompatible with the provisions of the present Convention, manifestly ill-founded, or an abuse of the right of petition.
- 129 3. The Commission shall reject any petition referred to it which it considers inadmissible under Article 26.

130 Article 28

131 *5

132 1. In the event of the Commission accepting a petition referred to it:

133 (a) it shall, with a view to ascertaining the facts, undertake together with the representatives of the parties an examination of the petition and, if need be, an investigation, for the effective conduct of which the States concerned shall furnish all necessary facilities, after an exchange of views with the Commission;

134 (b) it shall at the same time place itself at the disposal of the parties concerned with a view to securing a friendly settlement of the matter on the basis of respect for human rights as defined in this Convention.

135 2. If the Commission succeeds in effecting a friendly settlement, it shall draw up a report which shall be sent to the States concerned,

⁵Same as footnote 1: Text amended according to the provisions of Protocol No. 8 (ETS No. 118) which entered into force on 1 January 1990.

to the Committee of Ministers and to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe for publication. This report shall be confined to a brief statement of the facts and of the solution reached.

Article 29

*6

After it has accepted a petition submitted under Article 25, the Commission may nevertheless decide by a majority of two-thirds of its members to reject the petition if, in the course of its examination, it finds that the existence of one of the grounds for non-acceptance provided for in Article 27 has been established.

In such a case, the decision shall be communicated to the Parties.

Article 30

*7

1. The Commission may at any stage of the proceedings decide to strike a petition out of its list of cases where the circumstances lead to the conclusion that:

(a) the applicant does not intend to pursue his petition, or

(b) the matter has been resolved, or

(c) for any other reason established by the Commission, it is no longer justified to continue the examination of the petition.

However, the Commission shall continue the examination of a pe-

⁶Text amended according to the provisions of Protocol No. 3 (ETS No. 45) which entered into force on 21 September 1970 and of Protocol No. 8 (ETS No. 118) which entered into force on 1 January 1990.

⁷Same as footnote 1: Text amended according to the provisions of Protocol No. 8 (ETS No. 118) which entered into force on 1 January 1990.

tition if respect for human rights as defined in this Convention so requires.

Article 32

1. If the question is not referred to the Court in accordance with Article 48 of this Convention within a period of three months from the date of the transmission of the report to the Committee of Ministers, the Committee of Ministers shall decide by a majority of two-thirds of the members entitled to sit on the Committee whether there has been a violation of the Convention.
2. In the affirmative case the Committee of Ministers shall prescribe a period during which the High Contracting Party concerned must take the measures required by the decision of the Committee of Ministers.
3. If the High Contracting Party concerned has not taken satisfactory measures within the prescribed period, the Committee of Ministers shall decide by the majority provided for in paragraph 1 above what effect shall be given to its original decision and shall publish the report.
4. The High Contracting Parties undertake to regard as binding on them any decision which the Committee of Ministers may take in application of the preceding paragraphs.

Article 31

*8

1. If the examination of a petition has not been completed in accordance with Article 28 (paragraph 2), 29 or 30, the Commission shall draw up a report on the facts and state its opinion as to whether the facts found disclose a breach by the State concerned of its obligations under the Convention. The individual opinions of members of the Commission on this point may be stated in the report.

2. The report shall be transmitted to the Committee of Ministers. It shall also be transmitted to the States concerned, who shall not be at liberty to publish it.

3. In transmitting the report to the Committee of Ministers the Commission may make such proposals as it thinks fit.

Article 33

The Commission shall meet "in camera".

Article 34

*9

⁸Same as footnote 1: Text amended according to the provisions of Protocol No. 8 (ETS No. 118) which entered into force on 1 January 1990.

⁹Same as footnote 1: Text amended according to the provisions of Protocol No. 8 (ETS No. 118) which entered into force on 1 January 1990.

163 Subject to the provisions of Articles 20 (paragraph 3) and 29, the
164 Commission shall take its decisions by a majority of the members
present and voting.

164 **Article 35**

165 The Commission shall meet as the circumstances require. The
meetings shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the Council
of Europe.

166 **Article 36**

167 The Commission shall draw up its own rules of procedure.

168 **Article 37**

169 The Secretariat of The Commission shall be provided by the
Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

170 **Section IV**

171 **Article 38**

172 The European Court of Human Rights shall consist of a number of
judges equal to that of the members of the Council of Europe. No
two judges may be nationals of the same State.

173 **Article 39**

174 1. The members of the Court shall be elected by the Consultative
Assembly by a majority of the votes cast from a list of persons

nominated by the members of the Council of Europe; each member
shall nominate three candidates, of whom two at least shall be
its nationals.

2. As far as applicable, the same procedure shall be followed to
complete the Court in the event of the admission of new members
of the Council of Europe, and in filling casual vacancies. 175

3. The candidates shall be of high moral character and must either
possess the qualifications required for appointment to high judicial
office or be jurisconsults of recognised competence. 176

177 **Article 40**

*10 178

1. The members of the Court shall be elected for a period of nine
years. They may be re-elected. However, of the members elected
at the first election the terms of four members shall expire at the end
of three years, and the terms of four more members shall expire at
the end of six years. 179

2. The members whose terms are to expire at the end of the initial
periods of three and six years shall be chosen by lot by the
Secretary-General immediately after the first election has been
completed. 180

3. In order to ensure that, as far as possible, one-third of the membership
of the Court shall be renewed every three years, the Consultative
Assembly may decide, before proceeding to any subsequent election,
that the term or terms of office of one or more members to be
elected shall be for a period other than nine years but not more
than twelve and not less than six years. 181

¹⁰Text amended according to the provisions of Protocol No. 5 (ETS No. 55)
which entered into force on 20 December 1971 and of Protocol No. 8 (ETS No.
118) which entered into force on 1 January 1990.

182 4. In cases where more than one term of office is involved and
the Consultative Assembly applies the preceding paragraph, the
allocation of the terms of office shall be effected by the drawing of
lots by the Secretary-General, immediately after the election.

183 5. A member of the Court elected to replace a member whose term
of office has not expired shall hold office for the remainder of his
predecessor's term.

184 6. The members of the Court shall hold office until replaced. After
having been replaced, they shall continue to deal with such cases
as they already have under consideration.

185 7. The members of the Court shall sit on the Court in their individual
capacity. During their term of office they shall not hold any position
which is incompatible with their independence and impartiality as
members of the Court or the demands of this office.

186 **Article 41**

187 *11

188 The Court shall elect its President and one or two Vice-Presidents
for a period of three years. They may be re-elected.

189 **Article 42**

190 The members of the Court shall receive for each day of duty a com-
pensation to be determined by the Committee of Ministers.

191 **Article 43**

192 *12

¹¹Same as footnote 1: Text amended according to the provisions of Protocol
No. 8 (ETS No. 118) which entered into force on 1 January 1990.

For the consideration of each case brought before it the Court shall
consist of a Chamber composed of nine judges. There shall sit as
an ex officio member of the Chamber the judge who is a national of
any State party concerned, or, if there is none, a person of its choice
who shall sit in the capacity of judge; the names of the other judges
shall be chosen by lot by the President before the opening of the
case.

Article 44

Only the High Contracting Parties and the Commission shall have
the right to bring a case before the Court.

Article 45

The jurisdiction of the Court shall extend to all cases concerning
the interpretation and application of the present Convention which
the High Contracting Parties or the Commission shall refer to it in
accordance with Article 48.

Article 46

1. Any of the High Contracting Parties may at any time declare that
it recognises as compulsory ipso facto and without special agree-
ment the jurisdiction of the Court in all matters concerning the in-
terpretation and application of the present Convention.

2. The declarations referred to above may be made unconditionally
or on condition of reciprocity on the part of several or certain other
High Contracting Parties or for a specified period.

3. These declarations shall be deposited with the Secretary-

¹²Same as footnote 1: Text amended according to the provisions of Protocol
No. 8 (ETS No. 118) which entered into force on 1 January 1990.

General of the Council of Europe who shall transmit copies thereof to the High Contracting Parties.

Article 50

212

If the Court finds that a decision or a measure taken by a legal authority or any other authority of a High Contracting Party is completely or partially in conflict with the obligations arising from the present Convention, and if the internal law of the said Party allows only partial reparation to be made for the consequences of this decision or measure, the decision of the Court shall, if necessary, afford just satisfaction to the injured party.

213

202 **Article 47**

203 The Court may only deal with a case after the Commission has acknowledged the failure of efforts for a friendly settlement and within the period of three months provided for in Article 32.

204 **Article 48**

205 The following may bring a case before the Court, provided that the High Contracting Party concerned, if there is only one, or the High Contracting Parties concerned, if there is more than one, are subject to the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court or, failing that, with the consent of the High Contracting Party concerned, if there is only one, or of the High Contracting Parties concerned if there is more than one:

206 (a) the Commission;

207 (b) a High Contracting Party whose national is alleged to be a victim;

208 (c) a High Contracting Party which referred the case to the Commission;

209 (d) a High Contracting Party against which the complaint has been lodged.

210 **Article 49**

211 In the event of dispute as to whether the Court has jurisdiction, the matter shall be settled by the decision of the Court.

Article 51

214

1. Reasons shall be given for the judgment of the Court.
2. If the judgment does not represent in whole or in part the unanimous opinion of the judges, any judge shall be entitled to deliver a separate opinion.

215

216

Article 52

217

The judgment of the Court shall be final.

218

Article 53

219

The High Contracting Parties undertake to abide by the decision of the Court in any case to which they are Parties.

220

Article 54

221

The judgment of the Court shall be transmitted to the Committee of Ministers which shall supervise its execution.

222

| | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|---|-----|
| | Article 55 | 223 | immunities provided for in Article 40 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in the agreements made thereunder. | |
| 224 | The Court shall draw up its own rules and shall determine its own procedure. | | | |
| | Article 56 | | | 235 |
| 225 | | | Nothing in this Convention shall be construed as limiting or derogating from any of the human rights and fundamental freedoms which may be ensured under the laws of any High Contracting Party or under any other agreement to which it is a Party. | 236 |
| 226 | 1. The first election of the members of the Court shall take place after the declarations by the High Contracting Parties mentioned in Article 46 have reached a total of eight. | | | |
| 227 | 2. No case can be brought before the Court before this election. | | | |
| | Section V | | | |
| 228 | | | | |
| | Article 57 | | | |
| 229 | | | | |
| 230 | On receipt of a request from the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe any High Contracting Party shall furnish an explanation of the manner in which its internal law ensures the effective implementation of any of the provisions of the Convention. | | | |
| | Article 58 | | | |
| 231 | | | | |
| 232 | The expenses of the Commission and the Court shall be borne by the Council of Europe. | | | |
| | Article 59 | | | |
| 233 | | | | |
| 234 | The members of the Commission and of the Court shall be entitled, during the discharge of their functions, to the privileges and | | | |
| | | | Article 60 | |
| | | | | 237 |
| | | | Nothing in this Convention shall prejudice the powers conferred on the Committee of Ministers by the Statute of the Council of Europe. | 238 |
| | | | Article 61 | |
| | | | | 239 |
| | | | Article 62 | |
| | | | The High Contracting Parties agree that, except by special agreement, they will not avail themselves of treaties, conventions or declarations in force between them for the purpose of submitting, by way of petition, a dispute arising out of the interpretation or application of this Convention to a means of settlement other than those provided for in this Convention. | 240 |
| | | | Article 63 | |
| | | | | 241 |
| | | | 1. Any State may at the time of its ratification or at any time thereafter declare by notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe that the present Convention shall extend to all or any of the territories for whose international relations it is responsible. | 242 |

243 2. The Convention shall extend to the territory or territories named
in the notification as from the thirtieth day after the receipt of this no-
244 tification by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

244 3. The provisions of this Convention shall be applied in such terri-
tories with due regard, however, to local requirements.

245 4. Any State which has made a declaration in accordance with
paragraph 1 of this article may at any time thereafter declare on be-
half of one or more of the territories to which the declaration relates
that it accepts the competence of the Commission to receive pe-
titions from individuals, non-governmental organisations or groups
of individuals in accordance with Article 25 of the present Conven-
tion.

246 **Article 64**

247 1. Any State may, when signing this Convention or when depositing
its instrument of ratification, make a reservation in respect of any
particular provision of the Convention to the extent that any law
then in force in its territory is not in conformity with the provision.
Reservations of a general character shall not be permitted under
this article.

248 2. Any reservation made under this article shall contain a brief
statement of the law concerned.

249 **Article 65**

250 1. A High Contracting Party may denounce the present Convention
only after the expiry of five years from the date on which it became
a party to it and after six months' notice contained in a notification
addressed to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, who
shall inform the other High Contracting Parties.

251 2. Such a denunciation shall not have the effect of releasing the
High Contracting Party concerned from its obligations under this
Convention in respect of any act which, being capable of constitut-
ing a violation of such obligations, may have been performed by it
before the date at which the denunciation became effective.

252 3. Any High Contracting Party which shall cease to be a member of
the Council of Europe shall cease to be a Party to this Convention
under the same conditions.

253 4. The Convention may be denounced in accordance with the pro-
visions of the preceding paragraphs in respect of any territory to
which it has been declared to extend under the terms of Article
63.

254 **Article 66**

255 1. This Convention shall be open to the signature of the mem-
bers of the Council of Europe. It shall be ratified. Ratifications
shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the Council of Eu-
rope.

256 2. The present Convention shall come into force after the deposit
of ten instruments of ratification.

257 3. As regards any signatory ratifying subsequently, the Convention
shall come into force at the date of the deposit of its instrument of
ratification.

258 4. The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe shall notify all
the members of the Council of Europe of the entry into force of the
Convention, the names of the High Contracting Parties who have
ratified it, and the deposit of all instruments of ratification which may
be effected subsequently.

259 Done at Rome this 4th day of November 1950, in English and
French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which

shall remain deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary-General shall transmit certified copies to each of the signatories.

the Convention and in the Protocols thereto, or with any other question which the Commission, the Court or the Committee of Ministers might have to consider in consequence of any such proceedings as could be instituted in accordance with the Convention.

3. Decisions of the Committee of Ministers to request an advisory opinion of the Court shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the representatives entitled to sit on the Committee.

260 **Protocol No. 2 to the Convention for the Protection of of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Conferring Upon The European Court of Human Rights Competence to give Advisory Opinions [Strasbourg, 6.V.1963]**

261 **Preamble**

262 The member States of the Council of Europe signatory hereto,

263 Having regard to the provisions of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms signed at Rome on 4th November 1950 (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention") and, in particular, Article 19 instituting, among other bodies, a European Court of Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as "the Court");

264 Considering that it is expedient to confer upon the Court competence to give advisory opinions subject to certain conditions,

265 Have agreed as follows:

266 **Article 1**

267 1. The Court may, at the request of the Committee of Ministers, give advisory opinions on legal questions concerning the interpretation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

268 2. Such opinions shall not deal with any question relating to the content or scope of the rights or freedoms defined in Section 1 of

Article 2

The Court shall decide whether a request for an advisory opinion submitted by the Committee of Ministers is within its consultative competence as defined in Article 1 of this Protocol.

Article 3

1. For the consideration of requests for an advisory opinion, the Court shall sit in plenary session.

2. Reasons shall be given for advisory opinions of the Court.

3. If the advisory opinion does not represent in whole or in part the unanimous opinion of the judges, any judge shall be entitled to deliver a separate opinion.

4. Advisory opinions of the Court shall be communicated to the Committee of Ministers.

Article 4

The powers of the Court under Article 55 of the Convention shall extend to the drawing up of such rules and the determination of such procedure as the Court may think necessary for the purposes of this Protocol.

279 **Article 5**

have signed this Protocol.

280 1. This Protocol shall be open to signature by member States of the
Council of Europe, signatories to the Convention, who may become
Parties to it by:

Done at Strasbourg, this 6th day of May 1963, in English and in
French, both texts being equally authoritative, in a single copy
which shall remain deposited in the archives of the Council of Eu-
rope. The Secretary-General shall transmit certified copies to each
of the signatory States.

292

281 (a) signature without reservation in respect of ratification or accep-
tance;

282 (b) signature with reservation in respect of ratification or accep-
tance, followed by ratification or acceptance. Instruments of ratifi-
cation or acceptance shall be deposited with the Secretary-General
of the Council of Europe.

283 2. This Protocol shall enter into force as soon as all States Parties
to the Convention shall have become Parties to the Protocol, in
accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article.

284 3. From the date of the entry into force of this Protocol, Articles 1
to 4 shall be considered an integral part of the Convention.

285 4. The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe shall notify the
member States of the Council of:

286 (a) any signature without reservation in respect of ratification or
acceptance;

287 (b) any signature with reservation in respect of ratification or ac-
ceptance;

288 (c) the deposit of any instrument of ratification or acceptance;

289 (d) the date of entry into force of this Protocol in accordance with
paragraph 2 of this Article.

290 **Recitals**

291 In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto,

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