

# European Convention on Human Rights (and its five Protocols)

Council of Europe

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1 **The European Convention on Human Rights**

2 **Preamble**

3 The Governments signatory hereto, being Members of the Council of Europe,

4 Considering the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1948;

5 Considering that this Declaration aims at securing the universal and effective recognition and observance of the Rights therein declared;

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 the aim is to be pursued is the maintenance and further realisation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

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;

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;

9 Have agreed as follows:

10 **Article 1**

The High Contracting Parties shall secure to everyone within their jurisdiction the rights and freedoms defined in Section I of this Convention. 11

12 **Section I**

13 **Article 2**

14 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.

15 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:

16 (a) in defence of any person from unlawful violence;

17 (b) in order to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained;

18 (c) in action lawfully taken for the purpose of quelling a riot or insurrection.

19 **Article 3**

20 No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

21 **Article 4**

22 1. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.

23 2. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.

24 3. For the purpose of this article the term "forced or compulsory labour" shall not include:

25 (a) any work required to be done in the ordinary course of deten-

tion imposed according to the provisions of Article 5 of this Convention or during conditional release from such detention;

(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; 26

(c) any service exacted in case of an emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community; 27

(d) any work or service which forms part of normal civic obligations. 28

**Article 5** 29

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. 30

No one shall be deprived of his liberty save in the following cases and in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law: 31

(a) the lawful detention of a person after conviction by a competent court; 32

(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; 33

(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; 34

(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

(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

37 (f) the lawful arrest or detention of a person to prevent his ef-  
fecting an unauthorised entry into the country or of a person  
against whom action is being taken with a view to deportation  
or extradition.

38 2. Everyone who is arrested shall be informed promptly, in a  
language which he understands, of the reasons for his arrest  
and the charge against him.

39 3. Everyone arrested or detained in accordance with the provi-  
sions 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.

40 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.

41 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.

## 42 Article 6

43 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 impartial tribunal established by law. Judgement shall be  
pronounced publicly by the press and public may be excluded  
from all or part of the trial in the interest 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.

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

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

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

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

(c) to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of 48  
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;

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

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

## 51 Article 7

1. No one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on ac- 52  
count 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 53  
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 civilized nations.

54 **Article 8**

- 55 1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family  
56 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.

57 **Article 9**

- 58 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 oth-  
ers and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in  
worship, teaching, practice and observance.  
59 2. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs shall be subject  
only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are neces-  
sary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for  
the protection of public order, health or morals, or the protection  
of the rights and freedoms of others.

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 im-  
part information and ideas without interference by public au-

thority and regardless of frontiers. This article shall not prevent  
States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television  
or cinema enterprises.

2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties 62  
and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, condi-  
tions, 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 the rights of others, for prevent-  
ing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for  
maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

**Article 11**

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and 63  
to freedom of association with others, including the right to form  
and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.  
64  
2. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of these rights 65  
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 free-  
doms 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.

**Article 12**

Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry 67  
and to found a family, according to the national laws governing  
the exercise of this right.

68 **Article 13**

69 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.

70 **Article 14**

71 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.

72 **Article 15**

73 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 measures 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.

**Article 16**

76

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.

**Article 17**

78

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.

**Article 18**

80

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.

81

82 **Section II**

83 **Article 19**

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

- 85 1. A European Commission of Human Rights hereinafter re-  
ferred to as “the Commission”;
- 86 2. A European Court of Human Rights, hereinafter referred to  
as “the Court”.

87 **Section III**

88 **Article 20**

89 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.

90 **Article 21**

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

92 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.

93 **Article 22**

94 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.

95 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.

96 3. 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.

4. 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. 97

**Article 23** 98

The members of the Commission shall sit on the Commission in their individual capacity. 99

**Article 24** 100

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. 101

**Article 25** 102

1. The Commission may receive petitions addressed to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe from any person, non-governmental organization or group of individuals claiming to 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 recognizes 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. 103

2. Such declarations may be made for a specific period. 104

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.

106 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.

### 107 **Article 26**

108 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.

### 109 **Article 27**

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

111 (a) is anonymous, or

112 (b) is substantially the same as a matter which has already been examined by the Commission or has already been submitted to another procedure or international investigation or settlement and if it contains no relevant new information.

113 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.

114 3. The Commission shall reject any petition referred to it which it considers inadmissible under Article 26.

### 105 **Article 28**

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

(a) it shall, with a view to ascertaining the facts undertake together with the representatives of the parties and 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;

(b) it shall 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.

### **Article 29**

1. The Commission shall perform the functions set out in Article 28 by means of a Sub-Commission consisting of seven members of the Commission.

2. Each of the parties concerned may appoint as members of this Sub-Commission a person of its choice.

3. The remaining members shall be chosen by lot in accordance with arrangements prescribed in the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

### **Article 30**

1. If the Sub-Commission succeeds in effecting a friendly settlement in accordance with Article 28, it shall draw up a Report which shall be sent to the States concerned, 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.

125 **Article 31**

126 1. If a solution is not reached, 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 opinions of all the members of the Commission on this point may be stated in the Report.

127 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.

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

129 **Article 32**

130 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.

131 2. In the affirmative case the Committee of Ministers shall prescribe a period during which the Contracting Party concerned must take the measures required by the decision of the Committee of Ministers.

132 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. 133

**Article 33** 134

The Commission shall meet "in camera". 135

**Article 34** 136

The Commission shall take its decision by a majority of the Members present and voting; the Sub-Commission shall take its decisions by a majority of its members. 137

**Article 35** 138

The Commission shall meet as the circumstances require. The meetings shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe. 139

**Article 36** 140

The Commission shall draw up its own rules of procedure. 141

**Article 37** 142

The Secretariat of The Commission shall be provided by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe. 143

144 **Section IV**

145 **Article 38**

146 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 State.

147 **Article 39**

148 1. The members of the Court shall be elected by the Consul-  
tative Assembly by a majority of the votes cast from a list of  
persons nominated by Members of the Council of Europe; each  
Member shall nominate three candidates, of whom two at least  
shall be its nationals.

149 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 vacan-  
cies.

150 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 compe-  
tence.

151 **Article 40**

152 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 ex-  
pire at the end of three years, and the terms of four more mem-  
bers shall expire at the end of six years.

153 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.

3. A member of the Court elected to replace a member whose 154  
term of office has not expired shall hold office for the remainder  
of his predecessor's term.

4. The members of the Court shall hold office until replaced. Af- 155  
ter having been replaced, they shall continue to deal with such  
cases as they already have under consideration.

**Article 41** 156

The Court shall elect the President and Vice-President for a 157  
period of three years. They may be re-elected.

**Article 42** 158

The members of the Court shall receive for each day of duty 159  
a compensation to be determined by the Committee of Minis-  
ters.

**Article 43** 160

For the consideration of each case brought before it the Court 161  
shall consist of a Chamber composed of seven 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** 162

Only the High Contracting Parties and the Commission shall 163

have the right to bring a case before the Court.

172 **Article 48**

164 **Article 45**

165 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.

166 **Article 46**

167 1. Any of the High Contracting Parties may at any time declare that it recognizes as compulsory 'ipso facto' and without special agreement the jurisdiction of the Court in all matters concerning the interpretation and application of the present Convention.

168 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.

169 3. These declarations shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe who shall transmit copies thereof to the High Contracting Parties.

170 **Article 47**

171 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.

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:

(a) the Commission; 174

(b) a High Contracting Party whose national is alleged to be a victim; 175

(c) a High Contracting Party which referred the case to the Commission; 176

(d) a High Contracting Party against which the complaint has been lodged. 177

**Article 49** 178

In the event of dispute as to whether the Court has jurisdiction, the matter shall be settled by the decision of the Court. 179

**Article 50** 180

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. 181

182 **Article 51**

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

185 **Article 52**

186 The judgement of the Court shall be final.

187 **Article 53**

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

189 **Article 54**

190 The judgement of the Court shall be transmitted to the Commit-  
tee of Ministers which shall supervise its execution.

191 **Article 55**

192 The Court shall draw up its own rules and shall determine its  
own procedure.

193 **Article 56**

- 194 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.
- 195 2. No case can be brought before the Court before this elec-  
tion.

196 **Section V**

197 **Article 57**

198 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 this Convention.

199 **Article 58**

200 The expenses of the Commission and the Court shall be borne by the Council of Europe.

201 **Article 59**

202 The members of the Commission and of the Court shall be entitled, during the discharge of their functions, to the privileges and immunities provided for in Article 40 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in the agreements made thereunder.

203 **Article 60**

204 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.

205 **Article 61**

206 Nothing in this Convention shall prejudice the powers conferred

on the Committee of Ministers by the Statute of the Council of Europe.

**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.

**Article 63**

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.
2. The Convention shall extend to the territory or territories named in the notification as from the thirtieth day after the receipt of this notification by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.
3. The provisions of this Convention shall be applied in such territories with due regard, however, to local requirements.
4. Any State which has made a declaration in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article may at any time thereafter declare on behalf of one or more of the territories to which the declaration relates that it accepts the competence of the Commission to receive petitions from individuals, non-governmental organizations or groups of individuals in accordance with Article 25 of the present Convention.

214 **Article 64**

215 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.

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

217 **Article 65**

218 1. A High Contracting Party may denounce the present Convention only after the expiry of five years from the date of 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.

219 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 constituting a violation of such obligations, may have been performed by it before the date at which the denunciation became effective.

220 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.

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

**Article 66**

222

1. This Convention shall be open to the signature of the Members of the Council of Europe. It shall be ratified. Ratifications shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

223

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

224

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

225

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.

226

**Recitals**

227

Done at Rome this 4th day of November, 1950, in English and French, both text 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.\*

228



230 **Protocol 1. Enforcement of certain Rights and  
Freedoms not included in Section I of the  
Convention [1952]**

231 **Preamble**

232 The Governments signatory hereto, being Members of the Council of Europe,

233 Being resolved to take steps to ensure the collective enforcement of certain rights and freedoms other than those already included in Section I 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'),

234 Have agreed as follows:

235 **Article 1**

236 Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law.

237 The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a State to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties.

238 **Article 2**

239 No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and

to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religions and philosophical convictions.

**Article 3**

240

The High Contracting Parties undertake to hold free elections at reasonable intervals by secret ballot, under conditions which will ensure the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature.

241

**Article 4**

242

Any High Contracting Party may at the time of signature or ratification or at any time thereafter communicate to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe a declaration stating the extent to which it undertakes that the provisions of the present Protocol shall apply to such of the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible as are named therein.

243

Any High Contracting Party which has communicated a declaration in virtue of the preceding paragraph may from time to time communicate a further declaration modifying the terms of any former declaration or terminating the application of the provisions of this Protocol in respect of any territory.

244

A declaration made in accordance with this article shall be deemed to have been made in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 63 of the Convention.

245

**Article 5**

246

As between the High Contracting Parties the provisions of Articles 1, 2,

247

3 and 4 of this Protocol shall be regarded as additional articles <sup>248</sup> to the convention and all the provisions of the Convention shall apply accordingly.

249 **Article 6**

250 This Protocol shall be open for signature by the Members of the Council of Europe, who are the signatories of the Convention; it shall be ratified at the same time as or after the ratification of the Convention. It shall enter into force after the deposit of ten instruments of ratification. As regards any signatory ratifying subsequently, the Protocol shall enter into force at the date of the deposit of its instrument of ratification.

251 The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, who will notify all the Members of the names of those who have ratified.

252 Done at Paris on the 20th day of March 1952, In English and French, both text 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 signatory Governments

253 **Protocol 2. Conferring upon the European Court of  
Human Rights Competence to give Advisory  
Opinions [1963]**

254 **Preamble**

255 The Member States of the Council of Europe signatory hereto:  
256 Having regard to the provisions of the Convention for the Pro-  
tection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms signed  
at Rome on 4 November 1950 (hereinafter referred to as 'the  
Convention'), and in particular Article  
257 19 instituting, among other bodies, a European Court of Human  
Rights (hereinafter referred to as 'the Court');  
258 Considering that it is expedient to confer upon the Court compe-  
tence to give advisory opinions subject to certain conditions;  
259 Have agreed as follows:

260 **Article 1**

- 261 1. The Court may, at the request of the Committee of Ministers,  
give advisory opinions on legal questions concerning the inter-  
pretation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.
- 262 2. Such opinions shall not deal with any question relating to the  
content or scope of the rights or freedoms defined in Section I  
of 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 Con-  
vention.
- 263 3. Decisions of the Committee of Ministers to request an advi-  
sory opinion of the Court shall require a two-thirds majority vote  
of the representatives entitled to sit on the Committee.

**Article 2**

264  
265 The Court shall decide whether a request for an advisory opin-  
ion submitted by the Committee of Ministers is within its consul-  
tative competence as defined in Article 1 of this Protocol.

**Article 3**

- 266  
267 1. For the consideration of requests for an advisory opinion, the  
Court shall sit in plenary session.
- 268 2. Reasons shall be given for advisory opinions of the Court.
- 269 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.
- 270 4. Advisory opinions of the Court shall be communicated to the  
Committee of Ministers.

**Article 4**

271  
272 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.

**Article 5**

- 273  
274 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:
- 275 (a) signature without reservation in respect of ratification or accep-  
tance;
- 276 (b) signature with reservation in respect of ratification or accep-

tance, followed by ratification or acceptance. Instruments of ratification or acceptance shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

277 2. This Protocol shall enter into force as soon as all the States Parties to the Convention shall have become Parties to the Protocol in accordance with the Provisions of paragraph 1 of this article.

278 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.

279 4. The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe shall notify the Member States of the Council of:

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

281 (b) any signature with reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance;

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

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

## 284 **Recitals**

285 In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Protocol.

286 Done at Strasbourg, this 6th day of May 1963, in English and French, both text 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 signatory States.

287 **Protocol 3. Amending Articles 29, 30, and 94 of the  
Convention [1963]**

288 **Preamble**

289 The member States of the Council, signatories to this Proto-  
col,

290 Considering that it is advisable to amend certain provisions of  
the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Funda-  
mental Freedoms signed at rome on 4 November 1950 (here-  
inafter referred to as 'the Convention') concerning the proce-  
dure of the European Commission of Human Rights,

291 Have agreed as follows:

292 **Article 1**

293 1. Article 29 of the Convention is deleted.

294 2. The following provision shall be inserted in the Conven-  
tion:

295 "Article 29

296 After it has accepted a petition submitted under Article 25, the  
Commission may nevertheless decide unanimously 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.

297 In such a case, the decision shall be communicated to the par-  
ties."

298 **Article 2**

299 1. At the beginning of Article 34 of the Convention, the fol-

lowing shall be inserted: "Subject to the provisions of Article  
29..."

2. At the end of the same article, the sentence "the Sub- com- 300  
mission shall take its decisions by a majority of its members"  
shall be deleted.

**Article 4** 301

1. The Protocol shall be open to signature by the member 302  
States of the Council of Europe, who may become Parties to  
it either by:

(a) signature without reservation in respect of ratification or ac- 303  
ceptance, or

(b) signature with reservation in respect of ratification or accep- 304  
tance, followed by ratification or acceptance. Instruments of  
ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the  
Council of Europe.

2. This Protocol shall enter force as soon as all States Parties 305  
to the Convention shall have become Parties to the Protocol, in  
accordance with paragraph 1 of this article.

3. The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe shall notify 306  
the Member States of the Council of:

(a) any signature without reservation in respect of ratification or 307  
acceptance;

(b) any signature with reservation in respect of ratification or 308  
acceptance;

(c) the deposit of any instrument of ratification or acceptance; 309

(d) the date of entry into force of this Protocol in accordance 310  
with paragraph 2 of this article.

**Recitals**

311

312 In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto,  
have signed this Protocol.

313 Done at Strasbourg, this 6th day of May 1963, in English and  
French, both text 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 signatory States

314 **Protocol 4. Protecting certain Additional Rights**  
315 **[1963]**

316 **Preamble**

317 The Governments signatory hereto, being Members of the Council of Europe,

318 Being resolved to take steps to ensure the collective enforcement of certain rights and freedoms other than those already included in Section

319 1 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms signed at Rome on 4 November 1950 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Convention') and in Articles 1 to 3 of the First Protocol to the Convention, signed at Paris on 20 March 1952,

320 Have agreed as follows:

321 **Article 1**

322 No one shall be deprived of his liberty merely on the ground of inability to fulfil a contractual obligation.

323 **Article 2**

324 1. Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence.

325 2. Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own.

3. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of these rights other than such as are in accordance with law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security

or public safety for the maintenance of 'ordre public', for the prevention of crime, for the protection of rights and freedoms of others.

4. The rights set forth in paragraph 1 may also be subject, in particular areas, to restrictions imposed in accordance with law and justified by the public interest in a democratic society. 326

327 **Article 3**

328 1. No one shall be expelled, by means either of an individual or of a collective measure, from the territory of the State of which he is a national.

329 2. No one shall be deprived of the right to enter the territory of the State of which he is a national.

330 **Article 4**

331 Collective expulsion of aliens is prohibited.

332 **Article 5**

333 1. Any High Contracting Party may, at the time of signature or ratification of this Protocol, or at any time thereafter, communicate to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe a declaration stating the extent to which it undertakes that the provisions of this Protocol shall apply to such of the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible as are named therein.

334 2. Any High Contracting Party which has communicated a declaration in virtue of the preceding paragraph may, from time to time, communicate a further declaration modifying the terms of any former declaration or terminating the application of the provisions of this Protocol in respect of territory.

335 3. A declaration made in accordance with this article shall be  
deemed to have been made in accordance with paragraph 1 of  
Article 63 of the Convention.

336 4. The territory of any State to which this Protocol applies by  
virtue of the ratification or acceptance by that State, and each  
territory to which this Protocol is applied by virtue of a declara-  
tion by that State under this article, shall be treated as separate  
territories for the purpose of the references in Articles

337 2 and 3 to the territory of a State.

### 338 **Article 6**

339 1. As between the High Contracting Parties the provisions of  
Articles

340 1 to 5 of this Protocol shall be regarded as additional articles to  
the convention, and all the provisions of the Convention shall  
apply accordingly.

341 2. Nevertheless, the right of individual recourse recognised by  
a declaration made under Article 25 of the convention, or the  
acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the court by a dec-  
laration made under Article 46 of the convention, shall not be  
effective in relation to this Protocol unless the High Contract-  
ing Party concerned has made a statement recognizing such a  
right, or accepting such jurisdiction, in respect of all or any of  
Articles

342 1 to 4 of the Protocol.

### 343 **Article 7**

344 1. This Protocol shall be open for signature by the members of  
the Council of Europe who are the signatories of the Conven-  
tion; it shall be ratified at the same time as or after the ratification

of the Convention. It shall enter into force after the deposit of  
five instruments of ratification. As regards any signatory ratify-  
ing subsequently, the Protocol shall enter into force at the date  
of the deposit of its instrument of ratification.

### **Recitals**

345

The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-  
General of the Council of Europe, who will notify all members  
of the names of those who have ratified.

In witness thereof, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto,  
have signed this Protocol.

Done at Strasbourg, this 16th day of September 1963, in En-  
glish and French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single  
copy which shall remain deposited in the archives of the Coun-  
cil of Europe. The Secretary-General shall transmit certified  
copies to each of the signatory States.

348

349 **Protocol Amending Articles 22 and 40 of the  
Convention [1966]**

350 **Preamble**

351 The Governments signatory hereto, being Members of the Council of Europe,

352 Considering that certain inconveniences have arisen in the application of the provisions of Articles 22 and 40 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and fundamental Freedoms signed at Rome of

353 4th November 1950 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Convention') relating to the length of the terms of office of the members of the European Commission of Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as 'the Commission') and of the European Court of Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as 'the Court');

354 Considering that it is desirable to ensure as far as possible an election every three years of one half of the members of the Commission and of one third of the members of the Court;

355 Considering therefore that it is desirable to amend certain provisions of the Convention,

356 Have agreed as follows:

357 **Article 1**

358 In Article 22 of the Convention, the following two paragraphs shall be inserted after paragraph (2):

359 "(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 members to be elected shall be for a period other

than six years but not more than nine and not less than three years.

(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."

**Article 2**

In Article 22 of the Convention, the former paragraphs (3) and (4) shall become respectively paragraphs (5) and (6).

**Article 3**

In Article 40 of the Convention, the following two paragraphs shall be inserted after paragraph (2):

"(3) In order to ensure that, as far as possible, one half 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.

(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."

**Article 4**

In Article 40 of the Convention, the former paragraphs (3) and

(4) shall become respectively paragraphs (5) and (6).

## Article 5

1. This Protocol shall be open to signature by Members of the Council of Europe, signatories to the Convention, who may become Parties to it by;

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

(b) signature with reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance, followed by ratification or acceptance.

Instruments of ratification or acceptance shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

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

3. The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe shall notify the Members of the Council of:

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

(b) any signature with reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance;

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

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

## Recitals

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto,

have signed this Protocol.

Done at Strasbourg, this 20th day of January 1966, 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 signatory Governments.

382

383 **Note**

384 **Comment**

385 **Original Source:** <ftp://\protect\discretionary{\char\hyphenchar\font}{}{}\protect\discretionary{\char\hyphenchar\font}{}{}ftp.\protect\discretionary{\char\hyphenchar\font}{}{}io.\protect\discretionary{\char\hyphenchar\font}{}{}org/\protect\discretionary{\char\hyphenchar\font}{}{}pub/\protect\discretionary{\char\hyphenchar\font}{}{}human-rights/\protect\discretionary{\char\hyphenchar\font}{}{}instruments/\protect\discretionary{\char\hyphenchar\font}{}{}European%20Convention%20on%20Human%20Rights>

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