



COUNCIL  
OF EUROPE

CONSEIL  
DE L'EUROPE

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- The Council of Europe, building in Strasbourg (France) has founded on 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1949 by 10 countries. This is the first and most widely based European political organization. It was set up to promote democracy and protect human rights and the rule of law in Europe.



- The Council of Europe seeks to develop throughout Europe common and democratic principles based on the European Convention on Human Rights and other reference texts on the protection of individuals.



- Questions for you about Council of Europe!



- What do you know about Council of Europe?



- How many member states are involved in Council of Europe?



- Council of Europe covers virtually the entire European continent with its 47 member states, and has thus become a unique forum for voicing the concerns, hopes and aspirations of 800 million Europeans.

# Dates of joining countries in the Council of Europe:



- 1949 Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey
- 1950 Iceland and Germany
- 1956 Austria
- 1961 Cyprus
- 1963 Switzerland
- 1965 Malta
- 1976 Portugal
- 1977 Spain
- 1978 Liechtenstein
- 1988 San Marino
- 1989 Finland
- 1990 Hungary
- 1991 Poland
- 1992 Bulgaria
- 1993 Estonia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania
- 1994 Andorra
- 1995 Latvia, Albania, Moldova, Ukraine, FYR Macedonia
- 1996 Russian Federation and Croatia
- 1999 Georgia
- 2001 Armenia and Azerbaijan
- 2002 Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 2003 Serbia
- 2004 Monaco
- 2007 Montenegro



# The Council of Europe's symbols



- The European flag and the European anthem were chosen and adopted by the Council of Europe before also becoming symbols of the European Union. They are now the emblems of a shared European identity.



- How many stars are on European flag and why?

# European flag



# The European flag



- Against the background of blue sky, the stars form a circle, symbolizing union. The number of stars is fixed, twelve being the symbol of perfection and completeness and bringing to mind the apostles, the sons of Jacob, the labours of Hercules, the months in the year, etc.
- From its foundation in 1949 the Council of Europe was aware of the need to give Europe a symbol with which its inhabitants could identify. On 25 October 1955 the Parliamentary Assembly unanimously approved the emblem of a circle of gold stars on a blue background. On 9 December 1955 the organisation's Committee of Ministers adopted the star-studded flag, which was launched officially on 13 December of the same year in Paris.

## **A symbol for the whole of Europe**



- In 1983 the European Parliament in turn adopted the flag devised by the Council of Europe and recommended that it become the European Communities' emblem. The European Council gave its approval in June 1985. The European Union's institutions began to use the flag in 1986.

The European flag has since become synonymous with a shared political project which unites all Europeans, transcending their diversity.



## The primary aim of the Council of Europe

- The primary aim of the Council of Europe is to create a common democratic and legal area throughout the whole of the continent, ensuring respect for its fundamental values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law.



## **Human Rights...Democracy...Rule of Law**

- These values are the foundations of a tolerant and civilised society and indispensable for European stability, economic growth and social cohesion. On the basis of these fundamental values, we try to find shared solutions to major problems such as terrorism, organised crime and corruption, cybercrime, bioethics and cloning, violence against children and women, and trafficking in human beings. Co-operation between all member states is the only way to solve the major problems facing society today.

# Objectives:



- - to protect human rights, pluralist democracy and the rule of law;
- - to promote awareness and encourage the development of Europe's cultural identity and diversity;
- - to find common solutions to the challenges facing European society;
- - to consolidate democratic stability in Europe by backing political, legislative and constitutional reform





- The Council of Europe's wide range of initiatives often take the form of conventions designed to bring member states' laws into closer harmony with one another and with the Council's standards. There are 200 at present.
- The best known of these is **the European Convention on Human Rights**, which outlines the rights and freedoms that member states are obliged to guarantee to all individuals within their jurisdiction.
- These conventions are supplemented by the many resolutions and recommendations addressed to member states which play a vital role in finding solutions to our common problems.



- How Council of Europe is working?



- **The Committee of Ministers**
- This is the Council's decision-making body and is made up of the ministers of foreign affairs of each member state or their permanent diplomatic representatives in Strasbourg. The Committee of Ministers decides Council of Europe policy and approves its budget and programme of activities.
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- **The Parliamentary Assembly (PACE)**
- This is the deliberative body and the driving force of the Council of Europe. The Assembly has initiated many international treaties, helping to create a Europe-wide system of legislation. Its members are appointed by the national parliaments of each member state.
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- **The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities**
- The Congress is the voice of Europe's 200 000 regions and municipalities and provides a forum where elected representatives can discuss common problems, pool their experiences and develop policies. It works to strengthen democracy and improve services at local and regional level.



- **The European Court of Human Rights**
- This is the permanent judicial body which guarantees for all Europeans the rights safeguarded by the European Convention on Human Rights. It is open to states and individuals regardless of nationality. The 47 member states of the Council of Europe are parties to the Convention.
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- **Commissioner for Human Rights**
- The Commissioner is an independent body responsible for promoting education, awareness and respect for human rights in member states. The Commissioner plays an essentially preventive role.
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- **The Conference of INGOs**
- The Conference includes some 400 international Non Governmental Organisations (INGOs). It provides vital links between politicians and the public and brings the voice of civil society to the Council. The Council's work benefits extensively from the INGOs' expertise and their outreach to European citizens.



- **The Secretary General**
- The Secretary General is elected by the Parliamentary Assembly for a five-year term at the head of the Organisation. He is responsible for the strategic planning and direction of the Council's work programme and budget and oversees the day-to-day management of the Organisation.
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- **The Deputy Secretary General**
- The Deputy Secretary General is also elected for a five-year term by the Parliamentary Assembly, in an election separate to the one held for the Secretary General.
- **The Secretariat**
- Coming from all 47 member states, over 2,000 permanent staff work mainly in Strasbourg, France, but also in other offices throughout Europe, joined by temporary employees.



## **The Council of Europe's budgets for 2010**

- The Ordinary Budget amounts to €218 million. Member states' contributions amount to €211 million.



- **How many official languages exist in Council of Europe?**

# Official languages



- English and French are the Council of Europe's two official languages. German, Italian and Russian are also working languages. Various documents are also published in other European languages.



# The plan for 2010



- The Council of Europe will continue to reinforce its most important activities and areas of competence as identified by the Action Plan of the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government.
- Human Rights, the Rule of Law, Democracy and Good Governance, security of citizens and the building of a more humane and inclusive Europe will receive a new impulse through concerted action.



- The Council of Europe and the European Union are the same?



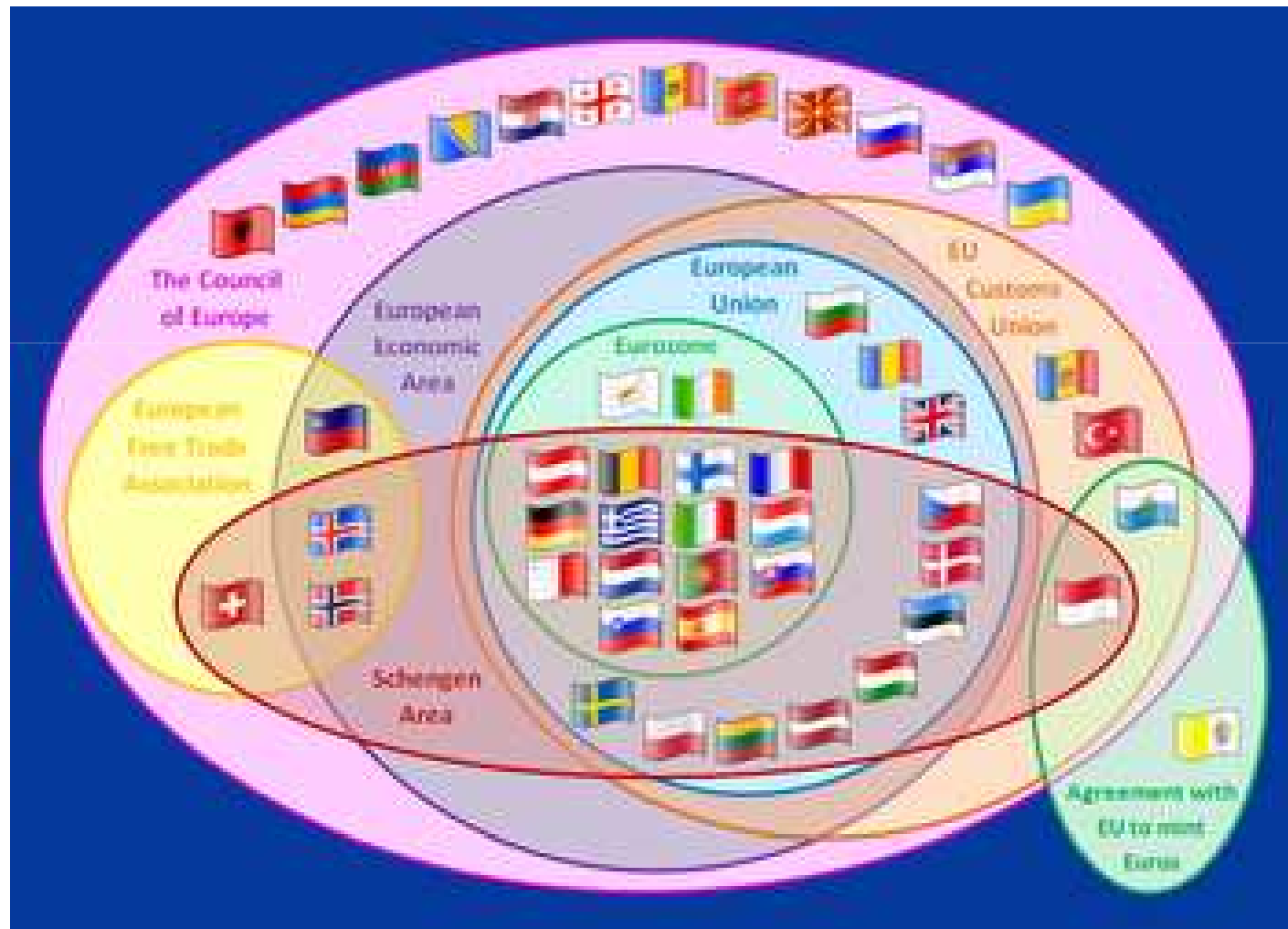
- The Council of Europe and the European Union now both share a common flag and an anthem, their roles, functions and aims are quite distinct.
- The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organization that today has 47 member states. It is concerned primarily with protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
- The European Union currently has 27 members that have delegated some of their sovereignty so that decisions on specific matters of joint interest can be made democratically at European level.
- No country has ever joined the European Union (EU) without first belonging to the Council of Europe.

## Did you also know that...



- ...the Council of Europe is a death penalty - free zone! Thanks to the determination of the Parliamentary Assembly since 1985, abolition of the death penalty is now a precondition for membership of the Council of Europe.
- ...from the simple pill to the most sophisticated medicines, pharmaceutical products manufactured and sold in Europe are subject to strict standards, thanks to the work of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines at the Council.
- ...the Council of Europe was the first organization to enact legislation in many fields, including the Convention on the prohibition of cloning human beings and the Convention on the suppression of terrorism.

Euler diagram showing the relationships between various multinational European organizations.





- THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
- 47 countries, one Europe
- [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)





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