



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

ECHR Registry

The task of the Registry is to provide legal and administrative support to the Court in the exercise of its judicial functions (Article 24 of the European Convention on Human Rights).

1. Composition of the Registry

The Registry is composed of lawyers, administrative and technical staff and translators. There are currently some 640 staff members of the Registry, who are staff members of the Council of Europe, the Court's parent organisation. All members of the Registry are recruited on the basis of open competitions, and are required to adhere to strict conditions as to their independence and impartiality.

The head of the Registry is the Registrar, who holds overall responsibility for its judicial and administrative activities. He/she is elected by the Plenary Court, is placed under the authority of the President of the Court, and is assisted by a Deputy Registrar, likewise elected by the Plenary Court.

Each of the Court's five judicial Sections is assisted by a Section Registrar and a Deputy Section Registrar. The same applies to the Filtering Section, which is responsible for sorting applications in order to direct them to the judicial appropriate formation.

The Jurisconsult is responsible for ensuring the consistency of case-law and supplying opinions and information, in particular to the trial benches and the members of the Court.

In addition to its case-processing divisions, the Registry has divisions dealing with the following sectors of activity: information technology; case-law information and publications; research and the library; just satisfaction; press and public relations; language department and internal administration. It also has a central office, which handles mail, files and archives.

2. The task of the Registry

The principal function of the Registry is to process and prepare for adjudication applications lodged by individuals with the Court. The Registry's lawyers are divided into 33 case-processing divisions, each of which is assisted by an administrative team. The lawyers prepare files and analytical notes for the Judges. They also correspond with the parties on procedural matters. They do not themselves decide cases, however.

Cases are assigned to the different divisions on the basis of knowledge of the language and legal system concerned, as applicants can address the Court, at the beginning of the proceedings, in any official language of the States Parties to the Convention. On the other hand, the documents prepared by the Registry for the Court are all drafted in one of its two official languages (English and French).

The Registry also endeavours to ensure the accessibility of the Court's case-law.