

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAUNCHES SPECIAL WEBSITE FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The fiftieth anniversary of the European Court of Human Rights is being celebrated throughout 2009 with a series of initiatives, including the launch today of a special event-oriented website that will be enhanced and up-dated in the course of the year.

The website is being launched today because it was exactly 50 years ago, on 20 April 1959, that the Court was inaugurated, on the tenth anniversary of the Council of Europe.

The website at <http://www.echr.coe.int/50/en> will be presenting all the events of the anniversary year such as the Open day on 20 September 2009 and a large number of documents on the Court's history and future and on the Member States of the Council of Europe.

- Via an **interactive map of the 47 member States** you will find basic information on each State such as the date it ratified the Convention, the judge elected in respect of that State, some major cases brought against it and the main statistics.
multimedia section containing videos, photos and podcasts.

- **Original historical documents** have been scanned and can be consulted on line, such as texts concerning the first case examined by the Court in 1960 (*Lawless v. Ireland*). Certain documents, such as the "Recommendation on the establishment of the Court" (1958), have been declassified by the Court's President, Jean-Paul Costa, so that they can be added to the site.

- **An overview of 50 years of activity and developments** can be gleaned from various reference documents including: preparatory work of the Convention, simplified version of the Convention, annual report on execution of judgments, case-law information, amendments to the Convention and Rules of Court, and reports on future reforms of the Court.

- **The website's visual identity is enhanced by an anniversary logo** representing the Human Rights Building, with underneath a reminder that the Court has 50 years of achievements behind it, and that, with its continuity as a respected institution guaranteed, it is moving forward on the strength of its history.

The Court is depicted by the transparent image – full of symbolism – of its glass-fronted building in Strasbourg, also resembling the scales of justice with its central public entrance hall flanked by its two cylindrical hearing rooms.

For more information see: <http://www.echr.coe.int/50/en>