

# Press Release

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## **The Council of Europe launches a website for training judges and prosecutors on human rights**

Strasbourg, 09.10.2007 - The Council of Europe launched today a website aimed at supporting its 47 member states to integrate human rights into their training of judges and prosecutors, which is part of the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (the "HELP" Programme),.

The programme intends to ensure that by 2009 the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), as interpreted in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), are fully integrated into national curricula for professional training of judges and prosecutors in all member states and becomes part of their basic knowledge.

The site (<http://www.coe.int/help>) contains standard curricula on the ECHR, a Manual on training methodology and a collection of ECHR training materials (slide shows, case studies, moot courts), to be used by trainers in the member states.

The site is open to the public but there is a restricted area, only accessible with password, for judges, prosecutors and trainers at the national training structures for the judiciary. This area of the site is interactive and provides tools to exchange materials and to discuss relevant matters.

The launch of the website coincides with the second Annual Meeting of the HELP Programme. The Human Rights Training Correspondents, who represent the training structures for judges and prosecutors in all 47 member states of the Council of Europe, are participating in the meeting, which takes place in Strasbourg today.

The HELP Programme, launched in 2006, is part of the efforts made by the Council of Europe to ensure the continued effectiveness of the ECtHR and strengthen the implementation of the ECHR at national level. Means are needed in order to reduce the influx of cases coming to the Court; some 90,000 individual applications are currently pending before it.

For more information: [http://www.coe.int/t/dc/files/themes/cedh/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dc/files/themes/cedh/default_en.asp)

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**A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.**