

Press Release

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EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

677
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Press release issued by the Registrar

The Italian authorities assure the Court of their support and willingness to undertake reforms

The warm welcome extended to Mr Jean-Paul Costa, President of the European Court of Human Rights, underlined the Italian authorities' full support for the Court in its efforts to ensure enhanced protection for human rights in Europe.

At the invitation of the Italian authorities, President Costa paid an official visit to Rome on 9 and 10 October 2007, accompanied by a delegation which included Mr Vladimiro Zagrebelsky, the judge elected in respect of Italy. President Costa was received by Mr Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Italian Republic, with whom he held discussions on, among other topics, the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights. He also took part in a working session attended by the Presidents and members of the Court of Cassation and the *Consiglio di Stato*, in the course of which the issues of implementation of the Pinto Act and the Court's case-law on property rights were raised. Finally, the President of the Court met with the Minister of Justice, Mr Clemente Mastella, who outlined current plans for reforming the judicial system with the aim of putting an end to the endemic delays in the system. President Costa also held talks with the President and judges of the Constitutional Court on stepping up cooperation between the two courts. Ambassador Pietro Lombardo, Permanent Representative of Italy to the Council of Europe, was present at all the meetings.

Further information about the Court can be found on its Internet site (<http://www.echr.coe.int>).

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The European Court of Human Rights was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe Member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights

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