

# Press Release

## Parliamentary Assembly Communication Unit

Ref: 620a07

Tel: +33 3 88 41 31 93

Fax :+33 3 90 21 41 34

pace.com@coe.int

internet: www.coe.int/press



### EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

47 members

620  
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Albania  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belgium  
Bosnia  
Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russia  
San Marino  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
"The former Yugoslav  
Republic of  
Macedonia"  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom

#### Press release issued by the Registrar

#### President calls for a strengthening of the dialogue with national courts

and While on an official visit to Belgrade, Mr Jean-Paul Costa, the President of the European Court of Human Rights, stressed the need for national courts to secure the guarantees set out in the European Convention on Human Rights as they have been interpreted in the Court's case-law. He emphasised the importance of strengthening dialogue between the domestic courts and the European Court.

"The domestic courts have a right and duty to ensure the primacy of the Convention", said Mr Costa during the conference on "The Role of Supreme Courts in implementing the European Convention on Human Rights at national level", which was organised by the Serbian Supreme Court and the Directorate of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe in the framework of Serbia's Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Mr Costa, accompanied by a delegation from the Court made up of Mr Dragoljub Popović, judge elected in respect of Serbia, and Mrs Sally Dollé, Section Registrar, paid an official visit to Belgrade from 20 to 22 September 2007. He met Mr Boris Tadić, President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr Vojislav Koštunica, the Prime Minister, and Mr Božidar Djelić, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for European integration. The President also had meetings with Ms Vida Petrović Škero, President of the Serbian Supreme Court, Mr Dušan Petrović, Minister of Justice, and Mr Oliver Dulić, President of the Parliament. All of these high-level figures expressed their esteem for the Court, which enjoys considerable prestige in Serbia, and for its case-law, which the Serbian authorities hope to draw on, especially with regard to the rules governing a fair trial.

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

#### Press contacts

**Emma Hellyer** (telephone: 00 33 (0)3 90 21 42 15)

**Stéphanie Klein** (telephone: 00 33 (0)3 88 41 21 54)

**Tracey Turner-Tretz** (telephone: 00 33 (0)3 88 41 35 30)

**Paramy Chanthalangsy** (telephone: 00 33 (0)3 90 21 54 91)

*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.*

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 member states.

President: René van der Linden (Netherlands, EPP/CD); Secretary General of the Assembly: Mateo Sorinas.

Political Groups: SOC (Socialist Group); EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe); EDG (European Democratic Group); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).