I. Organization of the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe (http://www.coe.int) was created in 1949 with 10 founding members (Statute of the Council of Europe, 87 U.N.T.S. 103, E.T.S. 1). It is also called the Conseil de l'Europe, Consejo de Europa, Europarat, or Consiglio d’Europa. There are now almost 50 member states, and it is headquartered in Strasbourg, France. Its purpose is to achieve European unity and facilitate economic and social progress. The Council is primarily concerned with issues of human rights, education and cultural projects, sports, public health, and protection of the environment.

Although it has a close relationship with the European Union, the Council of Europe is not part of the EU. The Council of Europe is also not affiliated with “European Council” (Conseil européen, Consejo Europeo, Europäischer Rat, Consiglio europeo), which is a special meeting of the EU’s Council of Ministers.

The main organs of the Council are the Parliamentary Assembly, which has mostly advisory powers; the Committee of Ministers, the decision-making body made up of the foreign ministers of the member countries; the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe whose function is to strengthen democratic institutions at the local level and assist the new democracies; and the Secretariat. The Annuaire Européen/European Yearbook (Periodicals) includes texts adopted by the Parliament, recommendations of the Committee of Ministers, texts of conventions open for signature, articles, a list of conventions and chart of signatures, and information about members of Council organizations. Selected documents of the Committee of Ministers are also individually catalogued or collected by subject. To find these materials using the online catalog (http://find.library.duke.edu/?type=books), search under “Council of Europe Committee of Ministers” in the author field.

II. Council of Europe Treaties

The Council of Europe has provided the framework for the negotiation and conclusion of more than 100 multilateral agreements among its member states (often called the “European treaties”). The texts of the treaties in French and English are officially published by the Secretary General in separate numbered booklets (which are bound together at the Law Library) in the European Treaty Series (E.T.S.); since 2004 the series has been called the Council of Europe Treaty Series (C.E.T.S.) (KJC39 .C97). The treaties are reprinted by the Council in European Conventions and Agreements (KJC39 .C96) which also has declarations and reservations by the parties, an explanation of the treaty process, and other useful information. The treaties can be found in other standard treaty sources and on the Council’s website (http://conventions.coe.int). The website provides information about signatures and ratifications as well.

III. Human Rights


IV. Court Reports & Digests

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) HUDOC website (http://www.echr.coe.int/) contains judgments beginning in 1959, along with reports, decisions and resolutions, court rules, press releases and information about pending cases. Selected judgments of the Court, selected reports and decisions of the Commission, and settlements and resolutions of the Committee of Ministers relating to human rights are published in a commercial reporter called European Human Rights Reports (E.H.R.R.) (KJC5138.A5 E97). ECHR opinions are also available in Westlaw (EHR-RPTS database; coverage begins in 1979, with some judgments dating back to 1960) and in LexisNexis Academic (browse sources, ECHR Cases: 1960-2010; ECHR Cases: 2011-Currrent, and within “International Human Rights Cases, Combined.”)


**V. Research Guides**

For more information on researching the Council of Europe, see *History, Role and Activities of the Council of Europe: Facts, Figures and Information Sources* (http://www.nylawglobal.org/globalex/Council_of_Europe1.htm) and *European Human Rights System* (http://library.law.columbia.edu/guides/European_Human_Rights_System).

**VI. Citation Rules**

*Rule 21.5.3* of *The Bluebook* explains how to cite documents of the Court and the Commission. *Rule 21.10* explains how to cite other Council of Europe materials.