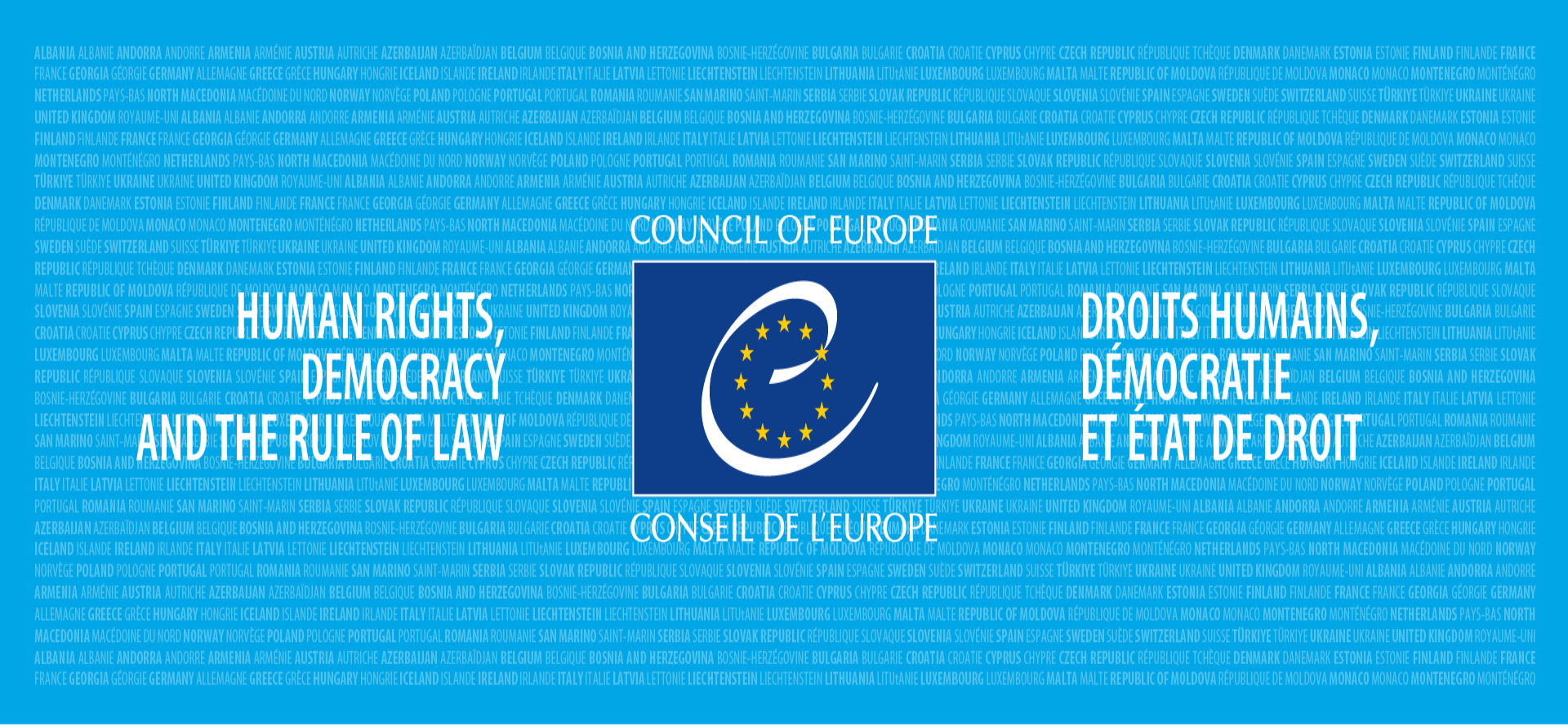
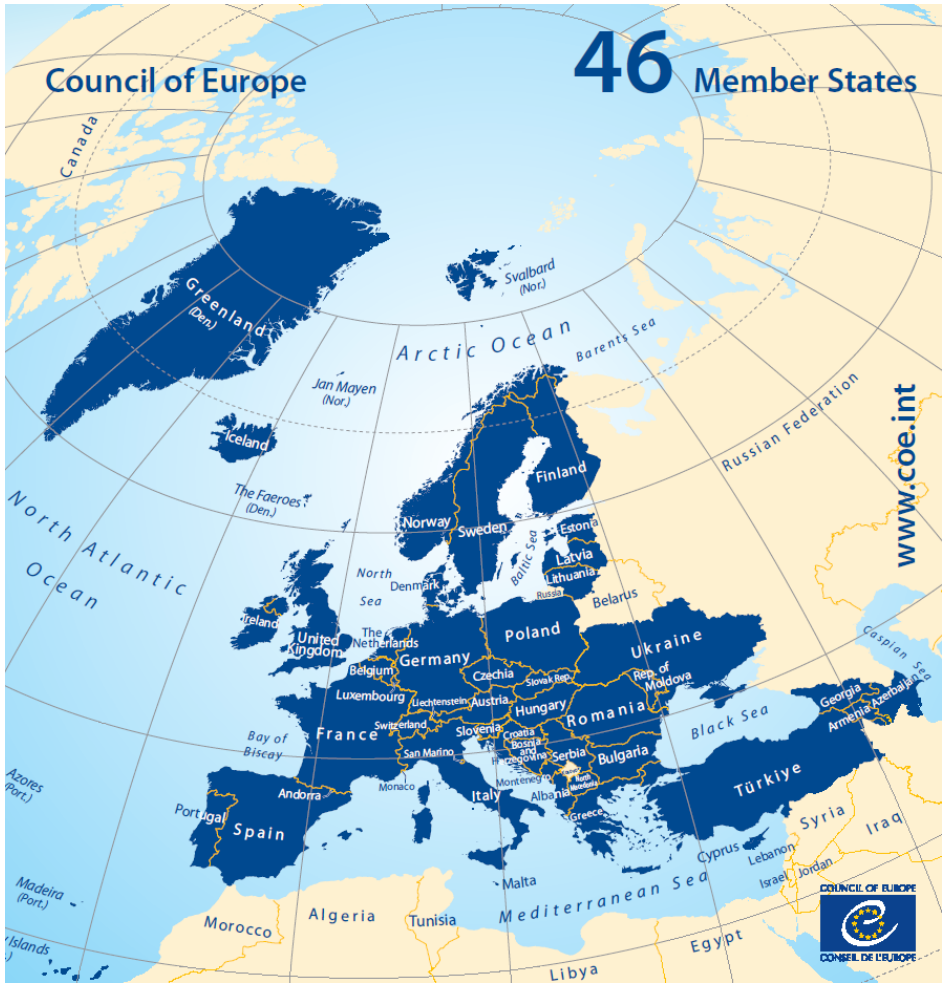


Council of Europe Activities

Catarina Garcia

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Europe's largest intergovernmental organisation

- **46 member States - 700 million people**
- Best-known rights-protection mechanism: **European Court of Human Rights**.
- **European Convention on Human Rights + 220 Conventions**
- Has produced pioneering **global legally binding standards**
- Different from, but closely working with **the EU** on Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law

* All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Strategy on the Environment 2025–2030

- Triple planetary crisis: **pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss**
- **Political recognition of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment** — reaffirmed at the **Reykjávik Summit, 2023**
- Overseen by **CDENV**, our Steering Committee on the Environment
- Explicitly embeds a **One Health** perspective

Conventions for the Protection of Animals

- **1968** — Transport of Animals (revised 2003)
- **1976** — Animals kept for Farming Purposes
- **1979** — Animals for Slaughter
- **1986** — Vertebrate Animals for Experimental/Scientific Purposes
- **1987** — Pet Animals

Together: **full life cycle** — transport, farming, slaughter, research, companionship

The Bern Convention: Wildlife and Habitats

- **Adopted 1979**, in force 1982 — one of the oldest environmental treaties still in force today and the only treaty for nature conservation in Europe
- Aims to **conserve wild flora and fauna** and **their natural habitats**, as well as to promote European co-operation in this field
- Particular emphasis is given to **endangered and vulnerable species**, including endangers and vulnerable migratory species.
- **50 Parties**: 45 CoE member states + EU + 4 African states
- **Emerald Network**: 1,250+ species, 210+ habitats, 18 non-EU countries
- Mandate: **wild species, not domestic animals**

The Landscape Convention

- Open **first international treaty dedicated exclusively to landscape**.
- It applies to **all landscapes** - natural, rural, urban or periurban, whether ordinary or outstanding, pristine or degraded, on land and at sea
- Recognises **landscape as a shared ecological, cultural, social and economic heritage** and provides a framework for its protection, management and planning, promoting its integration into public policies to enhance quality of life, democratic participation and sustainable development
- 2025 Recommendation on **Landscape and Health**

EUR-OPA: Disaster Risk and Resilience

- **Major Hazards Agreement**, established in 1987
- **Euro-Mediterranean platform** on natural & technological disasters
- Contributes to the **Sendai Framework** for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Focus on **the most vulnerable populations** in emergencies

Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (2025)

- Adopted **May 2025**; opened for signature in Strasbourg, **December 2025**
- **Strategic Objective 4** of the Strategy on the Environment – preventing and prosecuting environmental-related crimes
- **Criminal-law tools** against serious environmental offences
- The Conventions helps States **fight environmental crime, work together across borders, and set clear legal standards**
- Covers, inter alia, **wildlife trafficking and habitat destruction**
- **Ratified** by Latvia and **signed** by the EU, Cyprus, France, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Sweden and Republic of Moldova

THANK YOU!

For more information:

https://www.coe.int/en/web/reykjavik-process-and-the-environment
Council of Europe and the Environment: LinkedIn

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