



# E-NEWSLETTER

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## COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



### European Convention on Human Rights

European justice ministers back new action plan for implementing human rights judgments

The 47 member states of the Council of Europe have reaffirmed their support for the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and given their backing to a series of measures to improve the implementation of judgments from the Strasbourg court.

Government representatives unanimously adopted the [Brussels Declaration](#), together with an accompanying action plan, at the end of a two-day [conference](#) held in the Belgian capital, as part of the country's [chairmanship](#) of the Council of Europe.

Links to the [Reforming the ECHR](#) factsheet and the [Execution of judgments](#) website

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS



### Erasmus+ participants: test your language level online!

By taking the Online Linguistic Support (OLS) language assessment, Erasmus+ participants will determine in an easy and simple way their proficiency in the language that they will use whilst studying, working or volunteering abroad.

The OLS is available for Dutch, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish, which are the main languages for about 90% of all Erasmus+ exchanges.

To ensure that participants make the most out of their period abroad, the OLS language assessment is compulsory for Erasmus+ higher education students and European Voluntary Service (EVS) volunteers going abroad for more than two months.

Based on their assessment results, participants may also be offered an online language course to help them improve their skills, as well as tutoring, forums, and tips from former Erasmus+ participants.

For further information, visit the [Erasmus+ official website](#) and the [OLS website](#).



### European Development Days

The European Commission is inviting young people from around the world to play an active role during the conference taking place in Brussels on 3-4 June 2015, [European Development Days \(EDD15\)](#), Europe's largest forum on development and international cooperation.



### European-wide Action Week Against Racism - 15-23 March 2015

The General Assembly of the United Nations declared 21 March the International Day for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. This day was implemented as a reaction to the brutal murder of 69 anti-apartheid demonstrators in Sharpeville (South Africa) in 1960. Apartheid was a legal system of systematic racial segregation and inequality enforced by the government of South Africa from 1948 up to 1990.

The campaign is coordinated by 'UNITED for Intercultural Action' - the European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees. Within the UNITED network more than 550 organisations from a wide variety of backgrounds, from 48 European countries, work together in common activities and projects.

Europe today is facing many different forms of racism, xenophobia, anti-migrant and anti-minority attitude resulting in exclusion, hate speech, and in extreme cases in hate crimes. Most worrying is the continuous rise all over Europe of racist and extreme right political movements and -parties as well as the more and more discriminatory discourse used by mainstream political parties. Furthermore, racism and discrimination are not only advocated by the openly racist, but also found in commonly used cultural expressions. Racism is not just an isolated act, but part of a collective, continuing system of social relations. It is not always easy to see; sometimes we need each other to point discrimination out to us.

To get more information on the Action Week 2015 follow the campaign on [Facebook UnitedActionWeek](#). Follow [#ARW15](#) on twitter and see where you can [JOIN](#) an activity.