



# E-NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2015 NR. 114 (ENG)

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



### Death Penalty Day

Ahead of the World and European Day against the Death Penalty (10 October), the 47-nation Council of Europe and the 28-member European Union have issued a [joint declaration](#) underlining their firm opposition to capital punishment and calling on countries across Europe to move towards abolition.

The declaration from Council of Europe [Secretary General](#) Thorbjørn Jagland and the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, points out that no Council of Europe or EU member states have carried out executions since 1997.

It also calls on those European countries which have not yet done so to ratify two protocols to the European Convention on Human Rights which aim to abolish the death penalty. ([more...](#))



### Effective implementation of the European Convention of Human Rights

Effective implementation of the European Convention of Human Rights and the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights is a top political priority for the Council of Europe. It depends both on political will and on the existence of appropriate legal procedures at the national level.

Practices and trends in the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights by various states is the focus of discussion of an international conference that took place in Saint-Petersburgh on 22-23 October 2015 in Saint-Petersburg.

Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland, speaking of the recent judgment of the Russian Constitutional Court on the application of the European Convention, noted that other states have managed to resolve similar delicate issues - either through changing the constitution, or through Convention-compliant interpretation. Avoidance of open conflict between the Convention and national constitutional principles is possible and is the only constructive way forward, he stated.



### Congress of Local and Regional Authorities adopts declaration on reception of refugees in Europe

The States of Europe must assume shared responsibility for accommodating refugees on their territory in line with the applicable right to asylum and human dignity. That was the message from the members of the [Congress of Local and Regional Authorities](#) of the Council of Europe in a declaration adopted on 21 October 2015 in Strasbourg, France. The text emphasises in particular that Europe must play a full part in taking in Syrian refugees, only 6% of whom are on European territory (excluding Turkey), while Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan are accommodating more than 4 million.

The Congress asks the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to work together with the European Union to ensure that the question of immigration and the right to asylum are the subject of comprehensive European policies based on dignity and solidarity, designed to promote the reception and integration of migrants. It also stresses the need to allocate the necessary funding to local and regional authorities which are in the front line. ([more...](#))

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS



### 25 October is the European Day of Justice!

This European Commission and Council of Europe initiative aims to bring justice closer to all European citizens, by informing them on their [#rights](#) and of the available tools in place for facilitating access to cross-border justice, as well as raise awareness of EU law among legal professionals through communication and other related activities across the EU Member States.

Find more information here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/eu-justice-day/downloads\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/eu-justice-day/downloads_en.htm)