



# Role and structure of the Council of Europe

#EBDGrifik

	Council of Europe	European Union
Established	1949	1957
Member states	46	27
Population	677 million	448 million
Flag		
Anthem	Ode to Joy	Ode to Joy



## ! Common origin

Both, the European Movement and the Council of Europe stem from the Congress of Europe (1948) in The Hague

## Objectives of the Council of Europe



Promotion of human rights, democracy and rule of law in Europe

## Structure

### Statutory bodies

#### Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)



**Composition:**  
Representatives of National Parliaments



**Chair:**  
Theodoros Rousopoulos

#### Role



Elections: e.g. Secretary General and Judges of the European Court of Human Rights



Promoting dialogue, providing ideas and advice to the Committee of Ministers on conventions



Election observation and monitoring of the Member States

#### Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe



**Composition:**  
Ministers of Foreign Affairs



**Chair: Mai - November 2024**  
Gabrielius Landsbergis,  
Lithuanian minister of Foreign Affairs

#### Role



Adoption of binding agreements  
**Example:** European Convention on Human Rights (1950)



Adoption of the budget and programme of activities



Promoting close cooperation through partial agreements  
**Example:** Venice Commission providing constitutional advice to states

### European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)



Ensures compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights

Judges complaints by persons and states relating to violations of the rights recognized by the Convention

### Important to EM Germany

- Strengthen the democratic DNA of the Council of Europe and thus fully exploit its potential as a workshop for democracy in preparation for EU membership
- Achieve progress in the negotiations on the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights
- Promote EU cooperation with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe
- Support the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda of the Council of Europe and the EU

### Priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency

- Support for Ukraine in its self-defence against the Russian war of aggression
- 75 years of the Council of Europe - Consistent implementation of the Reykjavik Summit resolutions and outlook for the future
- Democracy, human rights, and the rule of law at home and abroad
- Digital dimension of freedom

### Secretariat



Under the leadership of the Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić

### Consultative bodies

- Conference of International NGOs
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- Commissioner for Human Rights

