

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

**Resolution Res(2002)58
on the publication and dissemination of the case-law
of the European Court of Human Rights**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 18 December 2002
at the 822nd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 16 of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering the importance of the European Convention on Human Rights (hereafter referred to as "the Convention") as a constitutional instrument for safeguarding public order in Europe, and in particular of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (hereafter referred to as "the Court");

Considering that easy access to the Court's case-law is essential for the effective implementation of the Convention at national level, as it enables to ensure the conformity of national decisions with this case-law and to prevent violations;

Considering the respective practices of the Court, of the Committee of Ministers in the framework of its control of the execution of the Court's judgments, and of the member states with respect to the publication and dissemination of the Court's case-law;

Considering that member states were encouraged, at the European Ministerial Conference on Human Rights (Rome, 3-4 November 2000), to *"ensure that the text of the Convention is translated and widely disseminated to national authorities, notably the courts, and that the developments in the case-law of the Court are sufficiently accessible in the language(s) of the country"*;

Taking into account the diversity of traditions and practice in the member states as regards the publication and dissemination of judicial decisions;

Recalling Article 12 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, according to which the official languages of the Council of Europe are English and French,

Invites the Court to review its practice as regards the publication and dissemination of its judgments and decisions. It stresses in this respect the importance for the Court that:

- i. its judgments and decisions are made available immediately in an electronic database on the Internet;
- ii. its main judgments, important decisions on admissibility and information notes on case-law are made accessible rapidly, in both paper and electronic form (CD-Rom, DVD, etc.);
- iii. it indicates rapidly and in an appropriate manner, in particular in its electronic database, the judgments and decisions which constitute significant developments of its case-law.