



CCBE comments on the criticism concerning the interpretation of the European Convention on Human Rights

On 4 December, the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) adopted [detailed comments](#) on the **open letter published on 22 May 2025 by nine countries concerning the interpretation of the European Convention on Human Rights**. These comments follow up an earlier [CCBE statement](#) regarding the same open letter, published on 22 May.

In its latest paper, the CCBE analysed the three issues with the interpretation of the European Convention on Human Rights asserted in the open letter. **The analysis demonstrates that these criticisms of the Court's interpretation of the Convention are not evidentially supported.**

The CCBE is concerned about any adverse effects caused by misdirected criticism of the Convention system as a whole and especially the Court's authoritative interpretation of the Convention.

Crucially, criticism expressed in the open letter misses the need to focus on accelerating domestic decision-making in these sensitive areas, as well as the Court's processes, and the prompt and effective implementation of the Court's judgments to which all Council of Europe member states committed themselves in the Reykjavik Declaration.

At the Fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in May 2023, all the Member States reaffirmed their commitment in the Reykjavik Declaration to promptly and effectively implement the Court's judgments. The CCBE continues to support the provision of additional resources to the Court and national courts to enable them to hear and dispose of human rights cases more effectively, thereby enhancing the protection and implementation of fundamental rights.

Despite straightened economic pressures, all Council of Europe Member States need to commit additional resources to the prompt processing of human rights cases and to funding the Court adequately.

The CCBE also reminds that the nine States concerned are all parties to the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights which expressly recognises the right to apply for asylum and separately the analogous rights to life and bodily integrity already protected by the Convention. Any attempt to unravel the Convention in this regard amounts to a collateral attack on fundamental rights also protected by EU law and their supervision by the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Finally, any discussion of legal issues related to the Convention and its interpretation should take place within the existing relevant platforms of the Council of Europe. The CCBE is eager to engage in further substantive discussions on improving effective human rights protection in Europe with states authorities and other relevant stakeholders.

Read more

[CCBE comments following up on the CCBE Statement on the letter published on 22 May 2025 concerning the interpretation of the European Convention on Human Rights \(4 December 2025\)](#)

[CCBE Statement on the letter published on 22 May 2025 concerning the interpretation of the European Convention on Human Rights \(4 June 2025\)](#)

The CCBE President, Thierry Wickers, stated:

“The CCBE took note of the 10 December meeting of ministers on the initiative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe regarding migration and European Convention on Human Rights.

In light of the upcoming work announced as an outcome of this meeting, the CCBE maintains its position with regards to this matter, as set out in its comments of 4 December and its statement of 22 May, and is eager to take part in any process launched within the CoE in this regard.

The CCBE believes the judicial independence and effective protection of human rights of all individuals in Europe must remain the guiding principles of any future work.”



About the CCBE

The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) represents the Bars and Law Societies of 46 countries, and through them more than 1 million European lawyers.