

The Council of Europe and its relation with the EU

Instructor: Prof Birte Wassenberg
Module entirely taught in English

Course Description

1. Introduction

Introduction to the course: Structure and functioning of the Council of Europe
Working groups: The statute of the Council of Europe

2. The beginnings of the Council of Europe (1949-1969)

From the setting up of the Council of Europe until the Paris summit of the EEC (1949-1969)
Working groups on examples of activities in the Council of Europe:
Human Rights – Culture – Multicultural Society – Teaching of History – Teaching of languages –
Protection of environment – Europe and the world – Youth work – Health protection

3. The development in cooperation/opposition to the EEC 1969-1989

The enlargement and deepening of activities in the Council of Europe and its co-existence with the EEC/EU until the East-West detente (1969-1989)

4. The pan-European Organisation 1989-2009

In search for a pan-European identity for the Council of Europe: the enlargement of the Council of Europe and its role as a pan-European organization after the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989
Working groups on the enlargement procedure

5. Recent developments (2009-2014)

The Human Rights Courts reforms
The debate on the accession of the EU to the European Court of Human Rights
The Council of Europe combating new threats: cybercrime, corruption...
Crises in the Council of Europe with recent conflictual situations of Member States

6. Examples of fields of cooperation: Culture, Youth and environment

The cultural convention and its application
Promoting education, culture and sports for all
Eurimages
The European Youth Centres and its intercultural activities
Protection of environment and animals
Explication of the simulation game on a session of the Parliamentary Assembly on the admission of the Kosovo as a member of the Council

7. Original cooperation methods and structures

The Venice Commission
Monitoring
The Congress for local and regional authorities
A profusion of decentralised cooperation bodies
Simulation game

8. Which role for the Council of Europe in the European architecture

Final comparative analysis of the Council of Europe with regards to the EU and other international organizations

- The approach to European integration (theory)
- Objectives and development of the Council
- Relationship with other organizations: between cooperation and competition
- The future ?

Discussion and conclusion

- **During the course: intervention of at least one high civil servant from the Council of Europe on his field of competence.**

Reading Materials

BATES, Ed, The evolution of the European Convention of Human Rights. From its inception to the creation of a permanent Court of Human Rights, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2010

BITSCH, Marie-Thérèse, Histoire de la construction européenne de 1945 à nos jours, Editions complexe, Paris, 2001

BITSCH, Marie-Thérèse, Jalons pour une histoire du Conseil de l'Europe, actes du Colloque, de Strasbourg (8-10 juin 1995), Peter Lang, Berne, 1997

GERBET, Pierre, La construction de l'Europe, Imprimerie Nationale, Paris, 1999

GILBERT, Mark, European Integration. A concise History, Rowman & Littlefield, 2012

HALLER, Bruno, An Assembly for Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe 1949-1989, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2006

HUBER, Denis, Une décennie pour l'Histoire, Le Conseil de l'Europe 1989-1999, Conseil de l'Europe, Strasbourg, 1999

WASSENBERG, Birte, Histoire du Conseil de l'Europe, PIE Peter Lang, Bruxelles, 2012

WASSENBERG, Birte, History of the Council of Europe, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2013

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