

## European Movement International

### Resolution supporting the strategic vision for the Council of Europe

Considering the challenges facing Europe with the present economic, social and political crises and the conflicts in Europe's eastern and southern neighbourhood;

Considering that the Council of Europe and the European Movement International share the same founding values based on the idea of a united and peaceful Europe, and the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law deriving from the 1948 Hague Congress;

Recalling that the European Movement<sup>1</sup> submitted a draft convention to the Council of Europe in July 1949 under which the contracting parties would undertake to uphold the fundamental liberties of their citizens and establish a European Court to adjudicate in cases of alleged violation;

Reaffirming its commitment to the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights and its unwavering support for the right of individual petition;

Expressing its high regard for the achievements of the European Court of Human Rights;

Welcoming newly re-elected Council of Europe Secretary General, Thorbjørn Jagland's presentation of his strategic vision for the next five years, stressing the importance of enhancing democratic security across the European continent;

Noting that, in the light of blatant violations of the European Convention of Human Rights and increasing failure to abide by rulings of the Court by some Council of Europe Members, such as Russia (occupation of Crimea), Hungary (restrictions on freedom of expression and harassment of NGOs), or the United Kingdom (implementation of judgements) there is indeed a need for an increasingly relevant and efficient Council of Europe, as stated by Secretary General Jagland.<sup>2</sup>

Welcoming the areas identified for future action which include:

- strengthening the European Court of Human Rights and safeguarding the Convention;
- developing and expanding cooperation with member states;
- supporting and fostering democratic values;
- maintaining assistance to neighbouring countries;
- increasing the role of the social charter;
- reinforcing the cohesion and independence of the organisation;
- stepping up the operational capacity of the Council of Europe.

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<sup>1</sup> The joint rapporteurs of the International Juridical Section of the European Movement were Pierre-Henri Teitgen (former French Minister of Justice), Sir David Maxwell Fyfe (later Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom as Lord Kilmuir) and Belgium's Fernand Dehousse (later President of the Council of Europe Consultative Assembly)

<sup>2</sup>[https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=SG/Inf\(2014\)34&Language=lanEnglish&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=SG/Inf(2014)34&Language=lanEnglish&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864)

**The European Movement International welcomes and expresses its support for the strategic vision of Secretary General Jagland;**

**The EMI underlines the importance of the work of the Council of Europe regarding the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe;**

**The EMI expresses its firm support for the European Court of Human Rights' dual function of adjudicating in individual and interstate cases and authoritatively interpreting the 1950 Convention to ensure common human rights standards across the whole of Europe;**

**The EMI underscores the vital need for the Council of Europe, politically, and the European Court, judicially, to ensure that this actually happens;**

The EMI also supports Mr Jagland's proposals on:

- the participation of citizens in political and social life;
- the creation of a 'Participation Index';
- the introduction of 'next generation Neighbourhood Partnerships';
- the initiative for a Summit on the rule of law, democracy and human rights together with the OSCE, EU and UN.