



European Court to set up an Ethics Council

The European Court of Human Rights is to set up an Ethics Council to advise the President of the Court on matters of judicial ethics.

This development marks another important step taken by the Court to demonstrate its commitment to judicial ethics. This includes in particular ensuring the ethical standards its judges are held to being both visible and robust.

The Plenary Court has decided that its President will now be able to consult an Ethics Council whenever he or she considers it necessary to give guidance to a Judge seeking advice on compliance with the ethical standards in a given situation. The Ethics Council will have competence to give guidance regarding serving, *ad hoc* and former judges. Guidance can also concern the Court itself, as an institution.

The Ethics Council will be made up of five members: the most senior Vice-President of the Court, the most senior Section President and the three most senior sitting judges. The Ethics Council will be assisted by the Registrar of the Court.

This development is in line with the [Resolution on Judicial Ethics](#), last updated in 2021, which sets out that the President has a central role in providing advice on judicial ethics. Article 12 of the Resolution on Judicial Ethics has been amended to reflect the establishment and functioning of the Ethics Council.

This decision was taken by the Plenary Court when it met on 16 December 2024.

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The European Court of Human Rights was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights.