TO EU Member States and international obligations

The European Union (EU) and its Member States are embedded in an international context that has increasingly established human rights standards and obligations. The year 2011 witnessed important steps with regard to such obligations, both at the EU and Member State level. EU Member States ratified over various international agreements or protocols that are of direct relevance for the protection of fundamental rights. European or international monitoring bodies submitted over 50 reports on the fundamental rights performance of EU Member States, recognising both achievements and challenges. International case law developed further, especially at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), which identified Member State violations of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) in 506 judgments.

The EU's fundamental rights landscape is drawn from national norms, institutions and procedures, and their complex interplay with EU, Council of Europe and international institutions, which are designed to protect and promote fundamental rights. The national systems of fundamental rights protection and promotion – including the courts, national laws, equality bodies and fundamental rights policies – also interact with the European (Council of Europe and European Union) and international (United Nations, UN) levels.

Against this background, this chapter traces changes in the level of formal commitment to international human rights obligations of EU Member States and the candidate country Croatia that took place between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011. It thereby updates the information provided in FRA's last annual report on fundamental rights challenges and achievements in 2010. Developments that occurred in 2011 are highlighted in grey in the following tables, while the figures provide an overview of the level of commitment. The chapter begins by looking at the Council of Europe's treaty covering human rights for everyday life, the European Social Charter (ESC), which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011. It then examines the acceptance of Council of Europe conventions and their optional protocols, also looking at data from the European Court of Human Rights in relation to cases brought against the 27 EU Member States and Croatia. Finally, it provides an overview of United Nations' conventions and their respective optional protocols accepted by EU Member States and Croatia, thereby highlighting the need for coordination among European and UN levels to render the fundamental rights framework operational and successful throughout the EU (see Focus).

10.1. Commitment to social rights: the European Social Charter

The ESC was adopted in 1961 and revised in 1996; the more detailed and enriched 1996 revised ESC is gradually replacing the initial 1961 treaty, with both Charters currently remaining in force. One of the objectives of the ESC revision was to take into account the developments in the social field and, in particular, the many directives adopted on the basis of the 1989 Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights for Workers, which established the major principles on which the European labour law model is based. The ESC guarantees social and economic rights alongside the mainly civil and political rights protected under the ECHR. To commemorate the ESC anniversary, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers issued a declaration in October 2011 reaffirming the importance of social rights throughout Europe and welcoming "the great number of ratifications since

Table 10.1: Conformity and non-conformity of national law and practice with provisions of the 1961 and 1996 ESC (and additional protocol) in 2011, as concluded by the ECSR, by country

Country	Number of Charter provisions examined	Number of conclusions in conformity	Number of conclusions of non-conformity	Non-conformity of State Party with number of Charter provisions examined (%) Red = greater than 25 %, Yellow = 15 %-25 % Green = lower than 15 %
AT	20	17	1	5
BE	29	18	4	14
BG	19	4	8	42
CY	23	11	8	35
CZ	16	10	4	25
DE	23	14	5	22
DK	3	0	2	67
EE	31	21	5	16
EL	26	13	8	31
ES	26	15	6	23
FI	30	24	2	7
FR	36	22	12	33
HU*				
IE	32	14	13	41
IT	36	17	16	44
LT	30	19	6	20
LU	25	16	4	16
LV	6	4	1	17
MT	19	11	5	26
NL**	35	19	9	26
PL	23	14	5	22
PT	36	21	4	11
RO	21	7	7	33
SE	31	25	4	13
SI	36	13	12	33
SK	27	11	8	30
UK	19	7	8	42
HR	16	7	6	38

Notes: * Hungary failed to submit a report and consequently the ECSR was unable to adopt conclusions.

The discrepancy between the total number of cases examined and the number of cases with respect to which EU Member States are in conformity or non-conformity with ESC provisions is due to the ECSR being unable to reach a conclusion for some situations, pending receipt of additional information from the EU Member State government concerned.

Source: FRA, 2011; data extracted from Council of Europe website, 'European Social Charter – The Conclusions of the European Committee of Social Rights for 2011', available at: www.coe.int/T/DGHL/Monitoring/SocialCharter/NewsCOEPortal/Conclusions2011Publication en.asp

the Second Summit of Heads of States and Governments" in 1997.¹ To date, all EU Member States and the candidate country Croatia are among the 43 states Party to the 1961 ESC; with **Austria**'s ratification in 2011, 18 EU Member States have ratified the 1996 ESC (see Table 10.2). The Committee of Ministers further "expressed its resolve to secure the effectiveness of the Social Charter through an appropriate and efficient reporting system and, where applicable, the collective complaints procedure", urging all states who had

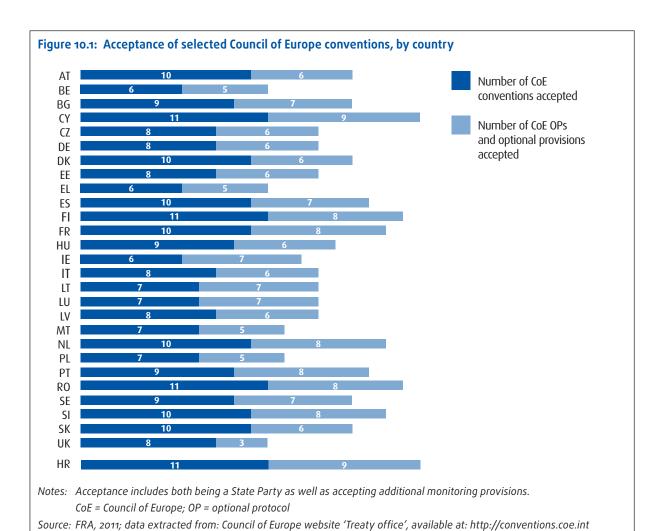
not yet done so to consider accepting the Collective Complaint Procedure Protocol (CCPP) (see Table 10.3).² All EU Member States and **Croatia** have signed the CCPP; 12 of these, including Croatia, have also ratified this instrument. Only one EU Member State, **Finland**, has in addition accepted the submission of collective complaints (Article 2 of the CCPP) from national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and national trade unions.³

^{**} This only relates to the Netherlands and not to the Kingdom of the Netherlands overseas territories.

¹ Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers (2011), Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the 50th anniversary of the European Social Charter, 12 October 2011.

² Ibid.

For more information on the European Social Charter, see: www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/ Presentation/Overview_en.asp.



To ensure compliance with the provisions of both the 1961 and 1996 ESC, as well as with those of the 1988 Additional Protocol, the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) monitors on a four-year cycle the implementation of the treaty by the State Parties. To cover all provisions during this four-year cycle, the ECSR has determined four thematic groups of provisions. States present a report on one of the four thematic groups of provisions on an annual basis. As a result, each provision of the Charter is reported on once every four years. As regards the 27 EU Member States and Croatia, the theme of 2011 focused on children, families and migrants, relating to Articles 7, 8, 16, 19, 27 and 31 of the Charter. Consequently, the ECSR examined in 2011 the application of these articles as provided for in the 1961 ESC by **Croatia** and 11 EU Member States – Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and the **United Kingdom**, while examining the application of these articles as provided for in the 1996 ESC by 15 EU Member States - Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Sweden. Hungary did not submit a report in time. Of the provisions examined in relation to each State Party, ranging from three to 36 depending on the number of provisions accepted by a state, an average of 27 % of ESCR conclusions stated a non-conformity with Charter provisions across all EU Member States and Croatia. Table 10.1 outlines the number of provisions examined as well as the number and rate of conformity of national law and practice with ESC provisions by EU Member State and Croatia. Table 10.2 provides an overview of EU Member States' and Croatia's acceptance of ESC provisions.

10.2. Acceptance of Council of Europe conventions and protocols

Several important developments occurred in relation to Council of Europe conventions and protocols in 2011. Most notably, in April, the Council of Europe adopted a new Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and domestic Violence ('Istanbul Convention'), a comprehensive legal framework for

Table 10.2: Acceptance of different ESC provisions, by country

	ESC (1996)								
Country	AT	BE	BG	CY	EE	FI	FR	HU	IE	IT
Article Total accepted	16	24	17	15	20	26	31	18	28	30
1 – right to work	✓									
2 – just conditions of work	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3 – safe and healthy working conditions	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓
4 – fair remuneration	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	×	✓	✓
5 – right to organise	✓									
6 – right to bargain collectively	0	✓								
7 – protection of children and young persons	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓
8 – right of employed women to protection of maternity	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0	✓
9 – vocational guidance	✓	✓	×	✓						
10 – vocational training	✓	✓	×	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11 – protection of health	✓									
12 – social security	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓
13 – social and medical assistance	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14 – right to benefit from social welfare services	✓									
15 – rights of persons with disabilities	✓	✓	×	✓						
16 – protection of the family	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17 – social, legal and economic protection of children and young persons	~	~	0	×	~	~	~	✓	~	~
18 – work in the territory of other Parties	✓	✓	0	0	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
19 – protection of and assistance to migrant workers	0	0	×	✓	✓	0	✓	×	✓	✓
20 – non-discrimination on the grounds of sex	×	✓								
21 – information and consultation	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓
22 – participation in improvement of working conditions	×	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23 – social protection of elderly persons	×	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
24 – protection in cases of termination of employment	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
25 – protection in case of employer's insolvency	✓	×	✓	×						
26 – dignity at work	0	0	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
27 – workers with family responsibilities	0	×	0	0	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
28 – protection of workers' representatives	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
29 – consultation in collective redundancy procedures	×	✓	✓	√	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
30 – protection against poverty and social exclusion	×	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
31 – housing	×	×	×	×	×	✓	~	×	×	✓

Notes: Acceptance includes both being a State Party as well as accepting additional monitoring provisions. Yellow-shaded boxes indicate developments in 2011.

Source: FRA, 2011; data extracted from Council of Europe website 'European Social Charter – Table of accepted provisions', available at: www.coe. int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/Presentation/ProvisionsIndex_en.asp and www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/Presentation/ProvisionTableRevOct2011.pdf and www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/Presentation/ProvisionTableRevOct2011.pdf

Table 10.2: (continued)

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								ESC (1961)								
LT	MT	NL	PT	RO	SK	SI	SE	CZ	DK	DE	EL	LV	LU	PL	ES	UK	HF
24	21	30	31	17	25	29	23	16	18	15	21	10	16	11	23	14	15
✓	0	✓	~														
✓	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓	✓	×	✓	0	✓	0	~
✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	~	×
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	0	0	0	0	✓	×	0	0	✓	0	>
✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	\										
✓	×	✓	0	0	✓	✓	\										
✓	0	✓	×	0	✓	×	✓	0	✓	0	\						
✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0	\
/	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	✓	\
✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	0	✓	×	✓	0	✓	✓	,
✓	\																
0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	0	,
0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	\						
✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	0	✓	✓	\								
✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	;
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	✓	~	\								
✓	~	~	~	✓	✓	~	~	~	✓	~	~	~	~	~	~	✓	\
0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	0	✓	✓	,
0	×	0	~	0	0	~	✓	0	×	~	✓	×	✓	✓	~	✓	,
/	✓	✓	✓	~	~	~	✓	~	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	,
/	×	✓	✓	~	~	~	✓	~	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	,
/	×	~	✓	×	~	✓	✓	~	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	\
×	~	~	✓	×	~	~	~	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	~	×	;
✓	~	~	✓	✓	✓	~	×								o = pa	✓ = acc rtly acc	epte
/	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~								x =	not acc	epte

✓

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Table 10.3: Acceptance of selected Council of Europe conventions, by country

Country	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR
Total accepted	16	11	16	20	14	14	16	14	11	17	18	18
ECHR (as amended by Protocol 14)	~	~	✓	~	✓	~						
ECHR Protocol 1 (property, education, etc.)	✓											
ECHR Protocol 4 (no prison for debt, etc.)	✓	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	~	✓	~
ECHR Protocol 6 (death penalty)	✓											
ECHR Protocol 7 (criminal appeal)	✓	s	✓	✓	✓	s	✓	✓	✓	~	✓	~
ECHR Protocol 12 (discrimination)	s	s	×	✓	s	s	×	s	s	✓	✓	×
ECHR Protocol 13 (death penalty)	✓	~	✓									
ESC (1996)*	√	✓	✓	✓	s	s	s	✓	s	s	✓	✓
ESC CCPP**	s	✓	✓	✓	s	×	s	×	✓	×	✓	✓
CPIPPD	✓											
CPIPPD Additional Protocol	✓	s	✓	✓	✓	✓	s	✓	s	✓	s	✓
ECCVVC	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	s	✓	✓	✓
ECPT	✓											
ECRML	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓	s
FCNM	✓	s	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	s	✓	✓	×
ECECR	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	s	✓	✓
'Oviedo Convention'	×	×	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Convention on Cybercrime	s	s	✓	✓	s	✓	✓	✓	s	✓	✓	✓
Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime	s	s	×	✓	×	✓	✓	s	s	×	✓	✓
САТНВ	✓	~	✓	✓	×	s	✓	s	s	~	s	~
CSEC	✓	s	✓	s	×	s	✓	s	✓	~	✓	✓
CAOD	×	s	×	×	×	×	×	s	×	×	s	×
'Istanbul Convention'***	s	×	×	×	×	s	×	×	s	s	s	s

Notes: Acceptance includes both being a State Party as well as accepting additional monitoring provisions. Yellow-shaded boxes indicate developments in 2011.

ECHR (as amended by Protocol 14) European Convention of Human Rights (Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental

Freedoms)

ESC (1996)* European Social Charter (1996 revised) ESC CCPP** ESC Collective Complaints Procedure Protocol

CPIPPD Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to automatic Processing of Personal Data.

The European Union will be able to accede to the CPIPPD, pending additional declarations by Council of

Europe member states.

CPIPPD Additional Protocol Additional Protocol to the CPIPPD, on supervisory authorities and transborder data flows

European Convention on the Compensation of Victims of Violent Crimes ECCVVC

ECPT European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

ECRML**FCNM** Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights **ECECR** 'Oviedo Convention' Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine

Table 10.3: (continued)

HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	UK	HR	Total accepted
15	13	15	14	14	14	12	18	12	17	19	16	18	16	11	20	out of 27 Member States and Croatia
~	✓	~	✓	28												
✓	✓	✓	~	✓	~	✓	28									
✓	✓	✓	~	✓	✓	~	✓	s	✓	26						
✓	28															
✓	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	24						
S	S	S	×	✓	S	×	✓	×	S	✓	×	✓	S	×	✓	8
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	s	✓	✓	S	✓	26						
✓	✓	✓	✓	S	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	S	S	18
S	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓	S	×	✓	13
✓	28															
✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	s	✓	20
s	×	×	S	✓	×	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	18
✓	28															
✓	×	S	×	✓	×	S	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	17
✓	✓	✓	✓	S	✓	24										
s	S	✓	×	S	✓	S	×	✓	S	×	S	✓	S	×	✓	12
✓	×	S	✓	S	✓	×	s	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	×	✓	17
✓	S	✓	✓	S	✓	S	✓	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	19
×	×	S	✓	S	✓	S	✓	S	✓	✓	S	✓	×	×	✓	12
s	✓	✓	S	✓	21											
s	S	S	S	✓	×	✓	✓	S	s	✓	s	S	s	s	✓	12
✓	×	×	S	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	s	×	×	×	2
×	×	×	×	s	×	×	×	×	s	×	s	s	s	×	×	0

Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime CATHBCSEC

CAOD

Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Convention on Access to Official Documents

Additional Protocol on criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic

'Istanbul Convention'

Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic

All European Member States are State Parties to the 1961 ESC.

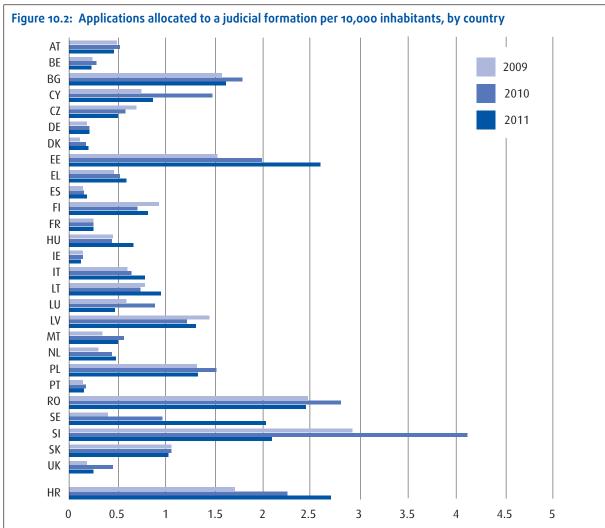
nature committed through computer systems

Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Article D of the 1996 ESC stipulates that the collective complaints procedure is applicable for the provisions of the 1996 revised ESC for states which have ratified the ESC CCPP. According to the article, it is also possible for State Parties to accept the collective complaints procedure at any point in time, without formally being party to the ESC CCPP; Bulgaria and Slovenia have made use of this possibility.

*** Istanbul Convention was adopted in April 2011.
FRA, 2011; data extracted from: Council of Europe website 'Treaty office', available at: http://conventions.coe.int Source:

= State Party/ applicable **s** = signed × = not signed



Notes: The Council of Europe member states had a combined population of about 819 million inhabitants on 1 January 2011.

The average number of applications allocated per 10,000 inhabitants amounted to 0.79 in 2011. Only the 27 EU Member States and Croatia covered by this Annual report are shown in the graph, while the original figure included statistics on all 47 Council of Europe member states.

Source: ECtHR, Annual report 2011

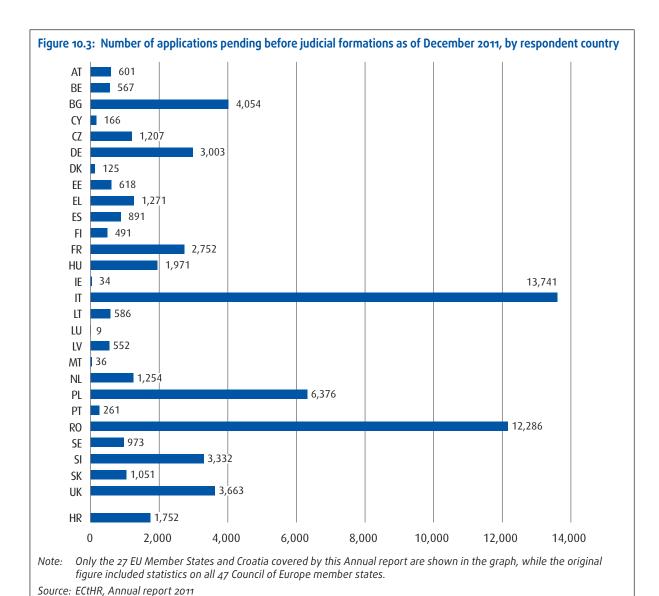
the protection of women that broadens the Council of Europe's repertoire of human rights conventions (for more information, see Chapter 9 on 'Rights of crime victims'). By the end of 2011, 11 EU Member States had signed the Istanbul Convention, but no EU Member State had yet ratified the convention.

As Table 10.3 shows, in 2011 **Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Luxembourg, Romania** as well as **Croatia** ratified the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CSEC), bringing the total number of EU Member State ratifications to 11 plus Croatia. The **United Kingdom** ratified the Convention on Cybercrime; **Finland** and **Germany** ratified, and **Italy** signed, its Additional Protocol. Thus, at the end of 2011, all EU Member States had signed the convention and 18, plus Croatia, had ratified it. The Additional Protocol has been signed by nine EU Member States and ratified by 11, with **Croatia** being Party to both the convention and the protocol.

The EU continued to negotiate its accession to the ECHR during 2011, taking final steps to determine the relevant legal dimensions of the EU's accession agreement. As part of this process, all EU Member States must ratify the accession agreement, of which terms must be accepted by all Council of Europe member states through formal consent of their respective national parliaments.⁴ Although no final deadline has yet been set for the EU's accession to the ECHR, it is expected that the process will be completed as soon as possible.⁵ Once the EU is Party to the ECHR, the legal system of the EU itself will be brought, as regards ECHR compliance,

⁴ Council of Europe, Informal Group on the Accession of the European Union to the Convention (2011), Accession by the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights: Answers to frequently asked questions, 30 June 2011.

Council of Europe, Steering Committee for Human Rights (2011), Report to the Committee of Ministers on the elaboration of legal instruments for the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights, 14 October 2011.



under the supervision of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).⁶

10.3. European Court of Human Rights proceedings

The most recent statistics from the ECtHR indicate that the court handed down 633 judgments in relation to cases brought against the 27 EU Member States and **Croatia**. As shown in Table 10.4, the most frequent subjects of proceedings before the ECtHR related to the length of proceedings (199 judgments), the right to an effective remedy (105), the right to liberty and security (94) and the right to a fair trial (88). Compared with 2010, when a total of 795 judgments were delivered

against EU Member States, the ECtHR handed down considerably fewer judgments on the length of proceedings, the right of property and non-enforcement in 2011.

Table 10.4 provides an overview of the number of judgments handed down by the ECtHR in 2011, broken down by ECHR articles and country and also shows the number of pending 'leading' cases for execution. The Council of Europe determines those cases as 'leading cases' that are not repetitive in nature but relate to a structural or general problem in the state concerned. Such problems can only be addressed by legislative measures at a general level.

It is also interesting to look at other statistics prepared by the ECtHR, for example at the number of complaints it allocates to its internal judicial formations by population, known as 'applications allocated to a judicial formation'. This is graphically illustrated in Figure 10.2 based on the ECtHR's statistics. Whereas

⁶ Council of Europe, Informal Group on the Accession of the European Union to the Convention (2011), Accession by the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights: Answers to frequently asked questions, 30 June 2011.

Table 10.4: Number of ECtHR judgments in 2011, by ECHR article, and number of 'leading' cases pending execution at the end of 2011, by country

Number of Juria	Judgments least one viole	Judgments finding at	Friendly out judging no Striking out finding no	other judy.	deprivation of	Lack life life Bight to of life	prohibition of prohibition of effective	Inhuman of treatme	Lack degrading	prohibility forced in prohibility forced in prohibility forced in prohibition for each forced in prohibition for	Right to security	Right to c Right to c	Length of pro-	roceedin
		9 4	90	12	*									
ECHR Artic		_				2	2	3	3	3	4	5	6	6
AT	12	7	4	1		_								5
BE	9	7	1		1	2			6			6	2	
BG CY	62	52	8		2	1	4	1	3	3		10	2	21
CZ	2	1	1										- 10	1
DE	22	19	1		2							8	13	2
DK	41 6	31	9		1				1			0		19
EE		1	5									4		
EL	3	3 69	2		2				10			8	6	
ES	73 12		2		1				10	1		0		50
FI		9	2		2					· ·			4	2
FR	7 33	23	9		1		1	1	г			1	11	2
HU	34	33	9		1			ı	5 3			5	4	19
IE	2	2			'				3			5	4	2
IT	45	34	3		8	1	1		2			2	7	16
LT	10	9	3	1	0	'	'		1	1			3	5
LU	3	1	2							<u>'</u>			1	
LV	12	10	2									17		1
MT	13	9	3		1							.,	3	3
NL	6	4	2									4	1	
PL	71	54	16		1	1			5			16	14	15
PT	31	27	3		1								1	13
RO	68	58	3		7	3	8		20	6		2	9	10
SE	4		4											
SI	12	11	1						2				1	6
SK	21	19	2						1			12	2	5
UK	19	8	9	2			5	2				1	3	1
Sub-total		506	92	4	31	8	19	4	59	11		94	88	199
Total			63	3*										
HR	25	23	2				2		3	4		5	8	3

Source: FRA, 2011, data extracted from ECtHR Annual report 2011. 'Violations by Article and by State, available at: www.echr.coe.int/NR/ rdonlyres/596C7B5C-3FFB-4874-85D8-F12E8F67C136/o/TABLEAU_VIOLATIONS_EN_2011.pdf

Notes: Judgments may concern more than one provision.

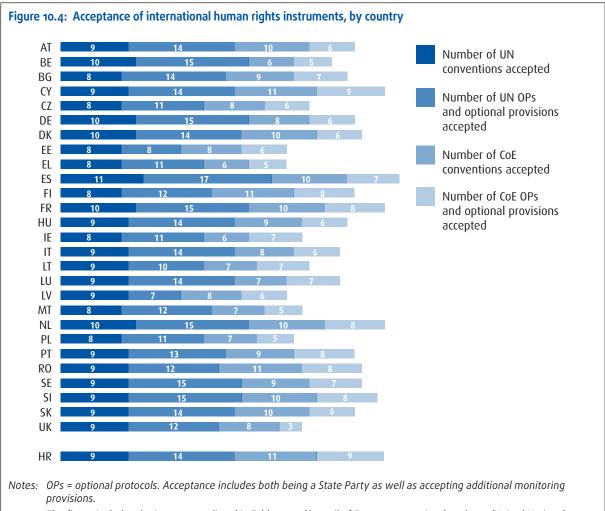
* Some judgments concern two EU Member States, one case for each of the following couples: Italy and France, Greece and Belgium, Poland and Germany, France and Belgium.

^{**} Other judgments: just satisfaction, revision judgments, preliminary objections and lack of jurisdiction.

*** 'Leading' cases relate to the supervision of leading case execution and are those that the Council of Europe identified as not being repetitive cases but showing a structural or general problem in the state concerned, for which measures must be taken to address the problem.

Table 10.4: (continued)

'l eading' ca	pending execution	Other or conver	Right not be punished to	Right to free concation	Right to E	protection of protection of	discriming discrimedy	Right to les	RI9in of assen	Freedom of association Freedom of expression Freedom of thought, Freedom of thought, Freedom and religion Freedom conscience and family life Right to respect for respect for rivate and family life No Punishment private without law				
u*** 3868	the	d or	ions	tion	erty	n of tion	ffective	arry	ation	sion	ght,	v life	nent law	nent
		P7-4	P1-3	P1-2	P1-1	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
21					1	1	1							
22							2			1				
116	6				7	1	26		3	2	1	5		
8														
20							1					2		
14					1		10		1	1		2	5	1
3												1		
3					4		1							
63					4	1	32				1	1		3
15 16										1		2		
46					1		6			2	1	2		
25	1				2		1			2	'	2		
3	<u>'</u>						1							
59	1		1		13							2		1
10	•		1		.,							_		•
5														
18	2											2		
12					5	1				2				
8					-									
72					1					2		8		1
12					8		10			3		2		
88	1				10		4		1	1		8		6
6														
9							7					2		
20						1	3			1		2		1
25										1		1		
	11		2		53	5	105		5	20	3	46	5	13
719														
42		1			2		1					4		



The figure includes the instruments listed in Tables 10.3 (Council of Europe conventions) and 10.5 (United Nations' conventions).

Source: FRA, 2011; data extracted from: United Nations website 'Treaty Collection' available at: http://treaties.un.org and Council of Europe website 'Treaty office' available at: http://conventions.coe.int

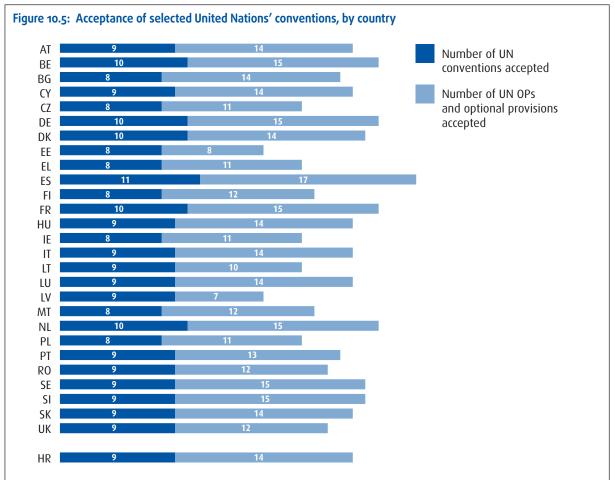
in general terms the workload of the court remained consistent over the past three years, a look at countries such as **Croatia**, **Estonia** and **Sweden** shows a constant and sharp increase of pending cases between 2009 and 2011.

10.4. Acceptance of UN instruments, conventions and protocols

In the UN context, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) embodies the closest formal interconnection between the EU and the UN human rights system. The CRPD is the first of the core international human rights treaties that explicitly allows for accession by regional organisations, an option the EU made use of by becoming party to the CRPD in December 2010.

In 2011, three additional EU Member States, namely **Cyprus, Luxembourg** and **Romania**, ratified the CRPD, bringing the total number to 19, plus **Croatia**. All EU Member States have, at a minimum, signed the CRPD. In 2011 **Cyprus** and **Luxembourg** also ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRPD which allows for individual complaints. The total number of EU Member States that are party to the CRPD Optional Protocol is 16, plus Croatia, with six others being signatories to the protocol. The CRPD illustrates the increasing interconnection between the national, EU and international human rights levels, reinforcing the institutional framework and ensuring consistency (see Table 10.5, the Focus and Section 5.5 in Chapter 5).

Other UN conventions that have already been in force for some time saw less EU activity in 2011. **Greece** ratified the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), the purpose of which is to protect and assist victims of human trafficking, and its Optional Protocols (Protocol 1 on smuggling migrants and Protocol 2 on



Notes: OPs = optional protocols. Acceptance includes both being a State Party as well as accepting additional monitoring provisions.

Please note that the figure includes all United Nations conventions as well as optional protocols and optional provisions listed in Table 10.5.

Source: FRA, 2011; data extracted from United Nations website 'Treaty Collection' available at: http://treaties.un.org

trafficking). As shown in Table 10.5, this brings the total number of EU Member States Party to the UNTOC to 26 plus Croatia. Membership of Protocols 1 and 2 increased to 24 and 26, respectively. **Croatia** is a State Party to the convention as well as its protocols, and the same is true for the EU, which ratified the convention in 2004, and Protocols 1 and 2 in 2006.

Although all EU Member States and **Croatia** are Party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the two protocols to this treaty are yet to be fully ratified by all EU Member States. Twenty-four EU Member States are Party to Protocol 2 on child prostitution, with **Luxembourg** having become Party in 2011. **Belgium** and the **Netherlands** ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPED), raising the total number of ratifications from three to five. Similarly, in the context of the Convention against Torture, already ratified by all EU Member States, **Bulgaria** ratified and **Greece** signed the Optional Protocol (OP-CAT), requiring National Preventive Mechanisms to be appointed or established. With these additions in 2011, 17 EU Member States, as well as

Croatia, are Parties and another seven are signatories. The International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers (ICRMW) remains the only 'core' UN human rights treaty which no EU Member State has signed or ratified. However, a Convention on Domestic Workers (ILO C189), although not yet in force, was adopted in the context of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in June 2011.

Most of the UN treaties referred to above provide for the establishment of monitoring bodies which supervise implementation of their obligations by State Parties, through, among other means, a periodic reporting procedure. The UN Human Rights Council provides a further monitoring role through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process created in 2006. In 2011, the UPR completed its first four-year monitoring cycle, having monitored all UN member states.⁷

For more information on basic facts about the UPR system, see: www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BasicFacts. aspx.

Table 10.5: Acceptance of selected United Nations' conventions, by country

Country	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR
Total accepted	23	25	22	23	19	25	23	16	19	27	20	25
ICERD	✓											
ICERD - Individual complaints (Art. 14 (1))	✓	✓	~	✓	~	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	~	✓
ICCPR	✓	✓	~	✓								
ICCPR - State complaints (Art. 41)	✓	✓	~	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×
ICCPR - OP1 (individual complaints)	✓											
ICCPR - OP2 (death penalty)	✓	✓	~	✓	~	✓						
ICESCR	✓	✓	~	✓	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	✓
ICESCR - OP (Individual complaints) [not yet in force]	×	S	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	s	×
CEDAW	✓											
CEDAW - OP (Individual complaints)	✓	✓	~	✓	~	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓
CEDAW - OP (Inquiry procedure, Art. 10, 'opt-out')	✓	✓	~	✓	~	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓
CAT	✓	✓	~	✓	~	✓						
CAT - OP	s	s	✓	✓	~	✓	✓	✓	s	V	s	✓
CAT - State complaints (Art. 21 (1))	✓	✓	~	✓	~	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓
CAT - Individual complaints (Art. 22 (1))	✓	✓	~	✓	~	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓
CAT - Inquiry procedure (Art. 20 (2), 'opt-out' in Art. 28 (1))	~	✓	~	~	~	~	~	~	✓	✓	✓	✓
CRC	✓											
CRC - OP1 (armed conflict)	✓	S	✓	✓	✓	✓						
CRC - OP2 (prostitution)	✓	✓	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	S	✓
ICRMW	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
CRSR	✓											
UNTOC	✓	✓	✓	✓	S	✓						
UNTOC - OP1 (smuggling of migrants)	✓	✓	✓	✓	S	✓						
UNTOC - OP2 (trafficking)	✓	✓	✓	✓	S	✓						
ICPED	S	✓	S	S	×	✓	S	×	S	✓	S	✓
ICPED - Individual complaints (Art. 31)	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	✓
CRPD	✓	✓	S	√	✓	✓	✓	S	S	✓	S	✓
CRPD - OP (individual complaints)	✓	✓	S	✓	s	✓	×	×	s	✓	s	✓
ILO C169	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	×
ILO C189*	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

Notes: Acceptance includes both being a State Party as well as accepting additional monitoring provisions. Yellow-shaded boxes indicate developments in 2011.

ICERD International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

ICCPR International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICCPR - OP1 Optional Protocol to the ICCPR

ICCPR - OP2 Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty

ICESCR International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ICESCR - OP Optional Protocol to the ICESCR

CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

 ${\it CEDAW-OP}$ Optional Protocol to the ${\it CEDAW}$

CAT Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

CAT - OP Optional Protocol to the CAT

CRC Convention on the Rights of the Child

CRC - OP2 Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict

Table 10.5: (continued)

23	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	UK	HR	Total accepted
	23	19	23	19	23	16	20	24	19	22	21	24	24	23	21	23	
	✓	~	~	✓	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	28						
√ ✓ √ ✓	✓	✓	~	×	✓	×	✓	~	~	~	~	✓	✓	✓	×	×	23
√ ✓ ✓	✓	✓	~	✓	✓	~	~	~	~	~	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	28
✓ ✓	✓	✓	~	×	~	×	✓	~	~	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	20
	✓	~	~	✓	✓	~	~	~	~	~	~	✓	✓	✓	×	~	27
X	✓	✓	~	✓	~	×	~	~	s	~	~	✓	✓	~	✓	~	26
	✓	~	~	✓	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	28						
√ ✓ ✓	×	×	s	×	s	×	×	s	×	s	×	×	s	s	×	×	1
V V	✓	~	~	✓	✓	~	~	~	~	~	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	28
	✓	✓	~	✓	✓	×	×	~	~	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	25
x S S x √ x √	✓	✓	~	✓	✓	×	×	~	~	~	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	25
V V X V X V	✓	~	~	✓	✓	~	~	~	~	~	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	28
V V	×	s	s	×	✓	×	~	~	~	s	~	✓	✓	×	✓	~	17
V V	✓	~	~	×	✓	×	✓	~	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	24
V V	✓	✓	~	×	✓	×	~	~	~	~	×	✓	✓	~	×	~	23
V V																	
V V																	
V S V	✓	✓	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	✓	28							
x x	✓	✓	~	✓		27											
V V	✓	S	~	✓	✓	~	✓	~	✓	25							
V V	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	0
V S V	✓	~	28														
V V	✓	27															
x s s s s s x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x 4 \(\sqrt{s} \	✓	S	✓	✓	S	✓	25										
x x x x x x x x x x x x 4 \(\sigma \)	✓	27															
V S V <td>×</td> <td>S</td> <td>S</td> <td>S</td> <td>S</td> <td>×</td> <td>S</td> <td>✓</td> <td>×</td> <td>S</td> <td>S</td> <td>S</td> <td>S</td> <td>S</td> <td>×</td> <td>S</td> <td>5</td>	×	S	S	S	S	×	S	✓	×	S	S	S	S	S	×	S	5
V X V V S X X V X	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	4
x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x 3	✓	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	S	S	S	✓	20						
	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	S	×	×	✓	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	17
x x x x x x x x x x	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	3
	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	0

ICRMW International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of

Their Families

ICPED International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

CRPD

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Optional Protocol to the CRPD CRPD - OP ILO C169 Indigenous Tribal People Convention ILO C189 Domestic Workers Convention

UNTOC Convention on Transnational Organized Crime UNTOC - Op 1 Optional Protocol 1 to the CTOC on smuggling migrants UNTOC - Op 2 Optional Protocol 2 to the CTOC on trafficking Convention relating to the Status of Refugees CRSR* ILO C189 was adopted in 2011, but is not yet in force.

√ = State Party/ applicable s = signed x = not signed

Source: FRA, 2011; data extracted from United Nations website 'Treaty Collection', available at: http://treaties.un.org

Table 10.6:	Universal Periodic R	eview recommend	ations in and	by country
1able 10.6:	Universal Periodic R	eview recommend	auons III 2011.	DV COUIILI V

	Total	Accepted*	Postponed	Rejected
AT	170	135	0	35
BE	155	112	13	30
DK	133	82	2	49
EE	125	91	22	11
EL	139	116	2	21
HU	148	113	29	6
IE		Pending res	sults report	
LT		Pending res	sults report	
LV	122	71	44	7

otes: * Numbers are subject to change as postponed or rejected recommendations may later be accepted.

Please note that these figures may differ depending on the source used for compiling the data.

Source: FRA, 2011; the table draws on information available at: www.upr-info.org/+Detailed-statistics-available+.html and www.ohchr.org/ EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx

As Table 10.6 shows, in 2011 nine EU Member States underwent the UPR procedure: **Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia** and **Lithuania**.⁸

The UPR Working Group issues recommendations based on the reviews, suggesting how human rights obligations can be met more effectively at the national level. States have the option to accept, reject or postpone implementation of these recommendations. Belgium, for example, received 121 recommendations, accepting 85, rejecting six and postponing 13. Latvia accepted 71, rejected seven and postponed four of the 122 recommendations it received. The reasons for rejection or postponement of recommendations vary from country to country, and include postponements in order to consider how to approach best a recommendation or rejection because similar steps are already underway. Belgium, for instance, rejected a recommendation on establishing a national plan for human rights because it had already begun implementing a sectoral approach to human rights.9

In contrast to the UPR system, which considers the entire human rights record of a state, UN treaty-monitoring bodies monitor the implementation of rights guaranteed under their respective treaties. A treaty body generally conducts a review on the basis of regular reports submitted by the state in question. Review cycles of treaty bodies typically range between four and five years, with the exception of the Convention on the

10.5. Securing fundamental rights protection and promotion

The interplay appears to be increasing between national, European and UN mechanisms for protecting and promoting human rights. In light of the substantial EU competencies, the Regional Office for Europe of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights published a report in 2011 on *The European Union and international human rights law.* The report concludes with a series of recommendations directed both at EU and UN bodies, including an overarching suggestion that the EU, its Member States and UN human rights bodies should cooperate closely to minimise the risk of gaps in the protection of human rights in the European region. Such a degree of coordination and cross-fertilisation among national, European and UN levels could help secure a European landscape in

Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which has a two-year cycle. In 2011, several EU Member States were reviewed by UN treaty-monitoring bodies. As Table 10.7 shows, of all the treaty bodies, the monitoring body for CERD, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, reviewed the greatest number of EU Member States in 2011: the Czech Republic, Ireland, Lithuania, Malta, Spain and the United Kingdom. The table shows that EU Member States are subject to a diverse range of monitoring activities both at the UN and Council of Europe level.

⁸ For more information about UPR sessions, see: www.ohchr. org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRSessions.aspx.

⁹ United Nations, Human Rights Council (2011), 'Human Rights Council adopts outcomes of Universal Periodic Review on Belgium, Denmark and Palau', Press release, 21 September 2011.

¹⁰ United Nations, Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, Europe Regional Office (2011), The European Union and International Human Rights Law.

which fundamental rights are vigorously protected and promoted. The challenge of coordination as well as of furthering a joined-up approach to the protection of fundamental rights is also addressed in the focus section of this Annual report on 'Bringing rights to life: the fundamental rights landscape in the EU'.

Table 10.7: Overview of monitoring reports released under United Nations and Council of Europe monitoring procedures in 2011, by country

				UN re	ports				C	ouncil o	f Europ	e report	S	
Country	CERD	HRC	CESCR	CEDAN	CEI	CAC	15-0p-sc	CRPD		ECPT	ECRML	FCMM	ECRI	Total
AT									✓			✓		2
BE									✓					1
BG		✓			✓									2
CY											✓		✓	2
CZ	✓					✓						✓		3
DE			✓		✓									2
DK						✓			✓			✓		3
EE			✓						✓	✓		✓		4
EL									✓					1
ES	✓							✓		✓	✓		✓	5
FI					✓	✓					✓			3
FR														0
HU									✓					1
IE	✓				✓				✓	✓				4
IT				✓		✓								2
LT	✓								✓	✓			✓	4
LU														0
LV									✓	✓				2
MT	✓									✓				2
NL														0
PL										✓	✓			2
PT														0
RO										✓	✓			2
SE											✓			1
SI					✓							✓		2
SK														0
UK	✓											✓		2
HR														0
Total	6	1	2	1	5	4	0	1	9	8	6	6	3	52

Notes: **✓** = Participation in monitoring cycles in 2011

CERD Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

HRC Human Rights Committee (Monitoring body of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ICCPR)

CESCR Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

CEDAW Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

CAT Committee against Torture

CRC Committee on the Rights of the Child

CRC-OP-SC Committee on the Rights of the Child (Monitoring the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children)

CRPD Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

UPR Universal Periodic Review

ECPT European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

ECRML Committee of Experts on Regional and Minority Languages

FCNM Advisory Committee on National Minorities

ECRI European Commission against Racism and Intolerance

Source: FRA, 2011; data extracted from: UN bodies – http://tb.ohchr.org/default.aspx; Council of Europe bodies – www.cpt.coe.int/en/states.htm, www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/minlang/Report/default_en.asp, www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/minorities/3_FCNMdocs/Table_en.asp, www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/countrybycountry_en.asp