



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Questions and Answers

What can the Strasbourg Court provide to a superior court member of the SCN?

All national member courts have access to a secure website, the SCN Intranet.

The Strasbourg Court can provide therein, under the supervision of its Jurisconsult, detailed ECHR case-law information prepared by, or under the supervision of, the Directorate of the Jurisconsult of the ECHR. These are working documents which had been prepared for internal use and their dissemination is confined to the superior courts who are SCN members. This information includes:

- Detailed research reports notably on matters of ECHR case-law;
- Commentaries by the Jurisconsult on judgments of significance posted to the SCN Intranet on the date of delivery;
- Tables, posted weekly, summarising the significant deliveries of that week and
- “Short research items” which are thematic selections of ECHR case-law.

The Jurisconsult of the Strasbourg Court can also respond to certain specific requests from national superior courts for ECHR case-law information.

Other training and information sharing activities can also be envisaged.

What does a superior court member have to contribute to the Network?

The key input, and one to which Strasbourg Court attaches some importance, is the completion of contributions by the national courts to the comparative research work of the European Court.

Questions, on a precise subject of national law, are put to a national court member of the SCN. The response required is a short summary. The response has to be in English or French (any annexed source documentation would not have to be translated). Most SCN member courts can expect in the region of 20 such requests per year. If there is more than one national member court, this work can be divided between those courts.

How do the exchanges between the ECHR and member national courts take place?

The exchanges take place through “focal points” who are the contact persons designated by the Strasbourg Court and the superior courts for that purpose.

The SCN Intranet contains an exchange forum in which Focal Points in the Strasbourg and national court members communicate with each other, exchange information, submit documents etc.

The national focal points are notified of new information in the SCN Intranet by way of e-mail alerts.