

# LinkedIn



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## "Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion" - Best Wishes JC Bas on New Role



My dear friend, Jean-Christophe Bas (in picture on left side), a major change agent and leader at the United Nation's Alliance of Civilizations, is leaving to accept a new role in Strasbourg, France at the Council of Europe as Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation. I am sure he will bring unprecedented leadership to the role. His friends who have worked with him during his tenure at the United Nations will sorely miss him.

I have had the opportunity to participate in a number of Forums and meetings of the Alliance of Civilizations (from Istanbul, Qatar, to Rio) and want to extend my sincere best wishes on the next chapter of his life.

For the past few months I have been wearing a hand wrist, with the expression **“Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion”** a global campaign for advancing understanding and commitment to D&I which JC helped to champion. It is important work that must be continued. It is my belief that my friends at the Global Dialogue Foundation, an Australian NGO, in which JC and I serve as advisors to support their work, echo the same sentiment.

JC we all wish you well and please stay in touch.

Jean-Christophe’s new role, as Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation is one of the three Directorates in the Directorate General of Democracy. It plays a key role in helping DGII in its mandate to promote democratic governance, to strengthen sustainable democratic societies and democratic responses to crisis situations, and to promote social cohesion and the societal defenses against discrimination, cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, democratic citizenship and the participation of all.

The Council of Europe is an international organization promoting co-operation between all countries of Europe in the areas of legal standards, human rights, democratic development, the rule of law and cultural co-operation. It was founded in 1949, has 47 member states with some 800 million citizens, and is an entirely separate body [1] from the European Union (EU), which has 28 member states. Unlike the EU, the Council of Europe cannot make binding laws. The two do however share certain symbols such as the flag and the anthem.

The best known bodies of the Council of Europe are the European Court of Human Rights, which enforces the European Convention on Human Rights, and the European Pharmacopoeia Commission, which sets the quality standards for pharmaceutical products in Europe. The Council of Europe’s work has resulted in standards, charters and conventions to facilitate cooperation between European countries.

Its statutory institutions are the Committee of Ministers comprising the foreign ministers of each member state, the Parliamentary Assembly composed of MPs from the parliament of each member state, and the Secretary General heading the secretariat of the Council of Europe. The Commissioner for Human Rights is an independent institution within the Council of Europe, mandated to promote awareness of and respect for human rights in the member states.

The Council of Europe’s most famous achievement is the European Convention on Human Rights, which was adopted in 1950 following a report by the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly. The Convention created the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The Court supervises compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights and thus functions as the highest European court for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is to this court that Europeans can bring cases if they believe that a member country has violated their fundamental rights.

Best wishes JC.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-G9PqHMqyc>

