

Original signatory states of the ECHR

(signed 4 November 1950 in Rome) and their individual ratification dates:

The ECHR was opened for signature on 4 November 1950 and entered into force on 3 September 1953. That entry-into-force date corresponds to when Luxembourg deposited the tenth instrument of ratification.

The 10 states that ratified the Convention before it came into force, in chronological order, were:

State	Ratification Date
 United Kingdom	8 March 1951
 Norway	15 January 1952
 Sweden	11 November 1952
 West Germany (Saarland)	14 January 1953
 West Germany	5 December 1952
 Iceland	29 June 1953
 France	3 May 1974 (<i>signed 1950, but ratified very late</i>)
 Belgium	14 June 1955
 Denmark	13 April 1953
 Luxembourg	3 September 1953
 Ireland	25 February 1953
 Italy	26 October 1955
 Greece	28 March 1953 (<i>later denounced in 1970, re-ratified 1974</i>)
 Netherlands	31 August 1954
 Turkey	18 May 1954

The United Kingdom was the very first nation to ratify the convention, doing so in March 1951.

A few notable points:

- **10 ratifications** were needed to bring the Convention into force. Luxembourg's deposit on 3 September 1953 was the decisive tenth.
- **France**, despite being a founding Council of Europe member and original signatory, did not ratify until **1974** — one of the last of the original signatories to do so.
- **Greece** ratified on 28 March 1953 but later denounced the Convention, with the denunciation taking effect on 13 June 1970 (during the military junta period), before re-ratifying after the restoration of democracy.
- **West Germany** ratified twice in a sense: Saarland (then a French protectorate) ratified on 14 January 1953, and the Federal Republic of Germany ratified on 5 December 1952.