



René Cassin advocacy competition 2026

The 41st René Cassin Human Rights Advocacy Competition will be held from 24 to 28 March 2026. The competition, consisting of mock legal proceedings in French based on the European Convention on Human Rights, is open to law and political science students.

Forty qualifying teams, coming from a range of countries including Armenia, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Romania, Slovenia and Türkiye, will go head-to-head at the headquarters of the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights, both in Strasbourg.

This year, the competition's advisory board, chaired by Sébastien Touzé, Professor of Law at the Panthéon-Assas University Paris, has prepared a mock case related to climate change and its implications for the protection of the rights and freedoms safeguarded by the Convention.

The two most successful teams will then meet in the final, which will be held in the main hearing room of the European Court at 2 p.m. (CET) on Friday 27 March 2026, before a panel made up of judges of the Court, lawyers, academics and representatives of the competition's partner institutions. The panel will be chaired by Mr Laurent Fabius, former Prime Minister and former President of the Constitutional Council.

Further information about this year's competition and previous competitions can be found on the [René Cassin Competition website](#) and the [Court's website](#).

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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.