

JUSTICE PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 7 February 2011

Policy Exchange: ‘muddled’ report on European Court of Human Rights

JUSTICE today took issue with the summary of a Policy Exchange paper *Bringing Rights Back Home*, published today. The conclusion of Policy Exchange in the summary was that ‘there is strong evidence to suggest that the UK’s membership ... of the Council of Europe does not require continued adherence to the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights’ (p13)

The report itself states, however, that ‘The UK is not entitled to remain a signatory of the ECHR treaty if it rejects the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights’ (p51). The author proceeds to say that, of course, the UK could try to negotiate acceptance by other members of the Council.

Article 46 of the European Convention on Human Rights states that ‘The High Contracting Parties undertake to abide by the final judgement of the Court in any case in which they are parties’.

Roger Smith, JUSTICE’s director, said:

Signatories of the European Convention on Human Rights are bound to follow decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. It is fanciful to suggest otherwise without conceding that this would require all the current members of the Council of Europe to agree to a totally different treaty.

For further information, contact Roger Smith: 020 7762 6412.

Notes to editors:

1. *Bringing Rights Back Home: making human rights compatible with parliamentary democracy in the UK* by Michael Pinto-Duschinsky was published today by Policy Exchange.