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

**Informal dialogue with the magistrates and lawyers
« Salle d'audience de l'Annexe au Palais de Justice Principauté de
Monaco »**

Friday 15th of November 2013

Speech by the President Dean Spielmann

Mister Plenipotentiary Minister, Director of Judicial Services,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Monegasque Magistracy and members of the Bar of the Principality of Monaco,

It is with great joy for me to again be confronted to you in light of this exchange of views, one I wish to remain as informal as possible.

We have an hour ahead of us, but before giving you the floor in order for us to answer all the questions that you may have on the European Court of human rights, please allow me to say a few introductory words.

First of all, I wish to thank the Monegasque authorities regarding the quality of their reception and the excellent program that they have prepared for us. These thanks are being particularly addressed to His Serene Highness the Sovereign Prince Albert II who gave me the honour of receiving me this morning. They are also being addressed to our friend Philippe Narmino, Director of judicial Services, who has been the project manager of this visit.

As you can see, I didn't come alone. I came, of course, with someone that you know well in the Principality: Isabelle Berro-Lefèvre, juge élue au titre de Monaco. Be it given me to say a few words on her: Isabelle Berro-Lefèvre is a judge in Strasbourg since 2006, or say since some seven years. It is a judge that I know particularly well for having been judging affairs with her in the same section and I have had the possibility to note her grand qualities as a lawyer. She is particularly appreciated by the Court as prove the fact that her colleagues have elected her, since now a year, president of the first section. She nowadays rules said section with skills and talent.

[...]

For your information, the majority of cases, very precisely 66%, come from a small number of countries: Russia, Italy, Ukraine, Turkey and Serbia.

[...]

Thanks to an efficient filter system [through pressure from Russia and Monaco, BIMCAM's note], the Court has considerably managed to catch up.

[...] [end of translation]