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As of 1 February 2022 the time-limit for applying to the Court is 4 months.

Apply to the Court

How to make a valid application

If you decide to apply to the Court, please ensure that your application complies with Rule 47 of the Rules of Court, which sets out the information and documents that must be provided.

Failure to provide any of the information or documents required by Rule 47 §§ 1 and 2 will result in the complaints not being examined by the Court. It is imperative that all fields in the application form are filled in.

Rule 47
Institution of Proceedings

A valid application will be examined by the Court; this does not mean that the application will be declared admissible.

Data protection

How to lodge an application



The application form should be downloaded, completed, printed out and sent by post to the Court with the necessary documents. No other form must be used.

Forms

Protocol No. 15 to the Convention reduces from 6 to 4 months the time-limit for lodging an application before the Court after the final domestic decision taken in the framework of the exhaustion of domestic remedies. This new four-month time-limit comes into force on 1 February 2022. However, it only applies to applications in which the final domestic decision in question was taken on or after 1 February 2022. This change of time-limit has been adopted by the 47 member States of the Council of Europe.

Procedure before the ECHR

Information and documents for persons with an application pending before the Court.

Information

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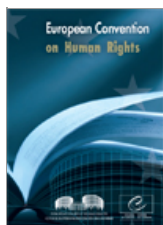
State of proceedings

The search engine *SOP* - State of Proceedings - allows anyone to find out what stage has been reached in the proceedings concerning an application.

Search for a case

Useful documents & videos

Official texts



European Convention on Human Rights

Rules of Court

Practice Directions

Questions and answers



The *Questions & answers* provide information to future applicants.

Questions & Answers

Other languages

Your application to the ECHR



This pamphlet, describing the various stages of the procedure by which the Court examines an application, is intended to answer the main questions that applicants might ask, especially once their application has been sent to the Court.

Your application to the ECHR - How to apply and how your application will be processed
Other languages

Admissibility Guide

The Practical Guide on Admissibility Criteria is intended mainly for lawyers who wish to bring a case before the Court. It describes the conditions of admissibility which an application must meet.

Practical guide on admissibility criteria

Admissibility Checklist

The admissibility checklist is designed to allow potential applicants to check whether, on the face of it, they satisfy the main admissibility criteria for lodging an application with the Court. However, the checklist is intended purely for guidance and has no legal force.

Flow chart



This flow chart indicates the progress of a case by judicial formation.



Other languages

The online admissibility checklist

Simplified case processing flow chart before the Court

Other languages

Video on lodging an application



This video clip is a tutorial explaining how the application form must be completed in order to be examined by the Court. Please note that although this video correctly reflects the main points on lodging an application, some information needs to be updated according to the latest reference documents.

Video "How to lodge a valid application"

Notes for filling in the application form

Other languages

Video on the admissibility conditions



This video sets out the main conditions required in order to apply to the Court.

Video on

the admissibility conditions

Other languages

COURTalks- disCOURs



The fifteen-minute video provides judges, lawyers and other legal professionals, as well as civil society representatives, with an overview of the admissibility criteria which all applications must meet in order to be examined by the Court.

Video

Other languages

Film on the Court



Aimed at a wide audience, the film explains how the Court works, describes the challenges

faced by it and shows the scope of its activity through examples from the case-law. Film

Interim Measures

What are Interim Measures?

When the Court receives an application it may decide that a State should take certain measures provisionally while it continues its examination of the case. This usually consists of requesting a State to refrain from doing something, such as not returning individuals to countries where it is alleged that they would face death or torture.

Requests for interim measures (Practice direction)

General presentation

Practical Information

Interim measures are granted by the Court only in clearly defined conditions, namely where there is a risk that serious violations of the Convention might occur.

A high proportion of requests for interim measures are inappropriate and are therefore refused.

Useful Links

Information in other languages

Not to be confused

Signatures and ratifications

Reservations and Declarations

Factsheet on interim measures

The European Court of Human Rights - Questions & answers for lawyers (CCBE)

Statistics on Interim measures

Interim measures by respondent State and country of destination