

## European Court updates rules on recusal of judges

The European Court of Human Rights has today published on its website a new version of the Rules of Court, which incorporates some changes to Rule 28 on the recusal of judges. The latter were adopted by the Plenary Court on 15 December 2023 and entered into force on 22 January 2024. They form part of a series of procedural reforms examined by the Plenary Court in 2023.

Rule 28 ensures the rigorous implementation of the principle of judicial impartiality, which is crucial for upholding the rule of law, protecting human rights, and ensuring the good administration of justice. The updated Rule reiterates the reasons for which a judge cannot sit in a particular case and strengthens the core procedural framework for the recusal of judges by expressly codifying the existing practice according to which the parties to the proceedings may request recusal of a judge.

The updated rule is accompanied by a Practice Direction on the recusal of judges, also issued today by the President of the Court. The aim of the Practice Direction is to further clarify the procedures provided for in Rule 28, which ensures that parties can practically and effectively raise any concerns about the impartiality of a judge and the process to be followed in such instances. Lastly, to ensure the fullest possible transparency of and accessibility to the judicial process before it, a complete list of the different judicial formations operating within each of the five Sections, including the list of single judges designated by State, is now available on the Court's website. This will facilitate the identification by the parties in advance of the judges in the Court's judicial formations.

The changes to Rule 28 follow extensive consultation with the relevant stakeholders, in particular with the Contracting Parties, organisations with experience in representing applicants, and several bar associations, who submitted their written comments.

The full text of the amendments to the Rules of Court can be found [here](#).

---

This press release is a document produced by the Registry. It does not bind the Court. Decisions, judgments and further information about the Court can be found on [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int). To receive the Court's press releases, please subscribe here: [www.echr.coe.int/RSS/en](http://www.echr.coe.int/RSS/en) or follow us on Twitter [@ECHR\\_CEDH](https://twitter.com/ECHR_CEDH).

### Press contacts

[echrpres@echr.coe.int](mailto:echrpres@echr.coe.int) | tel: +33 3 90 21 42 08

We would encourage journalists to send their enquiries via email.

**Neil Connolly (tel: + 33 3 90 21 48 05)**

Tracey Turner-Tretz (tel: + 33 3 88 41 35 30)

Denis Lambert (tel: + 33 3 90 21 41 09)

Inci Ertekin (tel: + 33 3 90 21 55 30)

Jane Swift (tel: + 33 3 88 41 29 04)

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.