

Forthcoming judgments and decisions

The European Court of Human Rights will be notifying in writing four judgments on Tuesday 27 January 2026 and 22 judgments and / or decisions on Thursday 29 January 2026.

Press releases and texts of the judgments and decisions will be available at **10 a.m.** (local time) on the Court's Internet site (www.echr.coe.int).

Tuesday 27 January 2026

[Khadija Ismayilova v. Azerbaijan \(no. 4\) \(applications nos. 71556/16 and 74112/17\)](#)

The applicant, Khadija Rovshan gizi Ismayilova, is an Azerbaijani national who was born in 1976 and lives in Baku.

The case concerns criminal proceedings brought against the applicant, a well-known journalist and activist. She had a number of charges brought against her in 2014-15; she was ultimately convicted of tax evasion and illegal entrepreneurship, specifically for carrying out journalistic activities for foreign media without accreditation. The criminal case against the applicant was the subject of another European Court judgment [Khadija Ismayilova v. Azerbaijan \(no. 2\)](#) in 2020.

Relying on Article 7 (no punishment without law) of the European Convention on Human Rights, she argues in this case that accreditation was not a legal requirement for journalists, including for those working with foreign media, under the national law at the time and that she could not therefore have known that her freelance work would result in a criminal sanction. She also alleges that her trial and conviction were a sham and that the charges had been fabricated to punish her for and prevent her from investigative reporting, in breach of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial), Article 10 (freedom of expression) and Article 18 (limitation on use of restrictions on rights).

Thursday 29 January 2026

[Vovk v. Ukraine \(no. 54353/20\)](#)

The applicant, Pavlo Vyacheslavovych Vovk, is a Ukrainian national who was born in 1978 and lives in Kyiv.

The case concerns an allegation by Mr Vovk, at the relevant time president of the Kyiv Circuit Administrative Court, that a public smear campaign was conducted against him by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine ("the NABU"). This campaign took place against the background of several sets of criminal proceedings brought against Mr Vovk, and other judges of the same court. These proceedings were initiated on the basis of information uncovered during an investigation into the 2013-14 Euromaidan protests. In that context Mr Vovk's office and telephone were wiretapped. The NABU disclosed information from the investigation in a series of publications on various online platforms, in particular in 2019 and 2020.

Mr Vovk lodged a criminal complaint with the State Bureau of Investigation to complain about the NABU's publications and the smear campaign against him, which he alleged was a threat to the independence of Ukraine's judicial system.

The criminal proceedings against Mr Vovk are still pending.

Relying on Article 6 § 2 (presumption of innocence), Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) and Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the European Convention, Mr Vovk complains that the NABU publications gave the impression that he was guilty of the alleged criminal offences and damaged his reputation. Also relying on Article 18 (limitation on use of restrictions on rights) of the Convention, he alleges that the publications and the charges against him had an ulterior motive, that is to discredit him and exert pressure on the judiciary.

The Court will give its rulings in writing on the following cases, some of which concern issues which have already been submitted to the Court, including excessive length of proceedings.

These rulings can be consulted from the day of their delivery on the Court's online database [HUDOC](#).

They will not appear in the press release issued on that day.

Tuesday 27 January 2026

Name	Main application number
Zyberi v. Albania	24267/16
Shivikova and Shikova v. Bulgaria	672/21
Stajković v. Serbia	56944/17

Thursday 29 January 2026

Name	Main application number
Santrač v. Bosnia and Herzegovina	13501/24
Avădanei and Others v. Romania	1087/23
Bănuță and Others v. Romania	444/23
Buzatu and Others v. Romania	10197/22
Cacuci and Others v. Romania	37224/22
Chirianu and Others v. Romania	23880/24
Conț and Others v. Romania	35251/23
Filimon and Others v. Romania	19982/24
Goia v. Romania	27673/19
Grigoriu v. Romania	9443/23
Ichim and Others v. Romania	8321/23
Kolcza and Others v. Romania	3774/24
Lăcătuș and Others v. Romania	36846/23
Linguraru and Others v. Romania	38879/23
Luca and Others v. Romania	33905/24
Manole and Others v. Romania	52/23
Opariuc and Others v. Romania	374/23
Ruja and Others v. Romania	41188/23
Stănescu and Others v. Romania	32617/23
Terșanschi and Others v. Romania	18018/23
Schuller v. Slovenia	36387/22

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.

