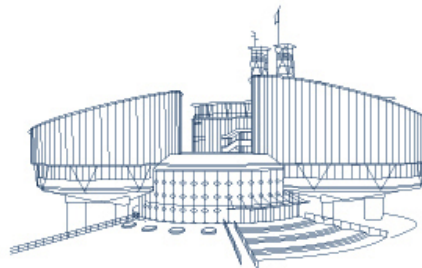


PRESS RELEASE

JUDGMENTS AND DECISIONS OF 8 OCTOBER 2026

ECHR 245 (2026) 08.10.2026

Press release issued by the Registrar of the Court



The European Court of Human Rights has today notified in writing 29 judgments¹ and 70 decisions²:

- six Chamber judgments are summarised below;
- one separate press release has been issued for another Chamber judgment in the case of *L.Z. and D.Z. v. Italy* (application no. 27379/24);
- two separate press releases have also been issued for two decisions in the cases of *Mouzin v. France* (no. 15353/19) and *Manavidis v. Greece* (no. 28849/23);
- 22 Committee judgments, concerning issues which have already been examined by the Court, and the 68 other Committee decisions, can be consulted on Hudoc and do not appear in this press release.

The judgments in French below are indicated by an asterisk ().*

[Vidberg v. France](#) (application no. 39092/21)*

The applicant, Fabienne Vidberg, is a French national who was born in 1976 and lives in Strasbourg (France). Her husband, a regular soldier deployed on an overseas mission at a French military base in Lebanon, took his own life on 4 July 2014.

The case concerns the French authorities' refusal to open a judicial investigation into the circumstances of the applicant's husband's death, after she lodged a complaint with an application to join the proceedings as a civil party. The reason given for the refusal was that only the public prosecutor could institute criminal proceedings in respect of acts committed by military personnel in the performance of their duties overseas.

Relying on Article 2 (right to life) of the European Convention on Human Rights, the applicant submits that the provisions of Article 698-2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which restrict the ability to institute criminal proceedings to the public prosecutor's office, prevented an effective investigation into the circumstances of her husband's death.

Relying on Articles 6 § 1 (access to court) and 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the European Convention, the applicant also alleges that she was denied effective access to a court on account of the restriction on instituting criminal proceedings laid down in Article 698-2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Relying on Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the Convention taken together with Article 6 § 1, the applicant complains that she was not afforded the same right of access to a court as victims of offences committed by military personnel in France or by civilians abroad.

No violation of Article 2

No violation of Article 6 § 1

No violation of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 6 § 1

[Grassucci and Others v. Italy](#) (no. 12952/13 and 4 others)*

The applicants are Italian nationals.

The case concerns the length of tax proceedings which led to the imposition of a tax surcharge on the applicants, and the effectiveness of the “Pinto” remedy in that regard.

Relying on Article 6 (right to a fair hearing within a reasonable time) of the Convention, they complain about the length of the proceedings before the domestic courts.

Relying on Article 13 (right to an effective remedy), two of the applicants also submit that the “Pinto” remedy is ineffective in tax matters.

Violation of Article 13 in respect of applications nos. 36990/19 and 53262/21

Violation of Article 6 § 1 in respect of all applications

Just satisfaction: Details of the amounts awarded to the applicants for just satisfaction, as well as for costs and expenses, are annexed to the judgment.

Just Satisfaction

[Andrzej Ruciński v. Poland](#) (no. 22716/12)

The applicant, Andrzej Ruciński, is a Polish national who was born in 1958 and lives in Dobra (Poland).

The case concerns the question of just satisfaction in compensation for Mr Ruciński’s loss of business profits as a result of disproportionate interference by the tax authorities.

In its [principal judgment](#) of 5 October 2023, the Court held that there had been a violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention (protection of property). The Court further held that the question of just satisfaction was not ready for decision and reserved its examination.

Today’s judgment concerned the question of the application of Article 41 (just satisfaction).

Just satisfaction:

- Pecuniary damage: 80,000 euros (EUR)
- Costs and expenses: EUR 7,935

[ATRESMEDIA CORPORACION DE MEDIOS DE COMUNICACION S.A. v. Spain](#) (no. 29807/23)

The applicant company is a private media broadcasting group which was established in 1988 and is based in San Sebastian de Los Reyes (Madrid). It broadcasts news and entertainment programmes.

The case concerns a political debate it intended to air on Antena 3 ahead of the 2019 national parliamentary elections. It wanted to invite five candidates for the office of Prime Minister from political parties that were expected to obtain more than 10% of the votes, including the candidate representing the political party Vox. However, following complaints lodged by three regional political parties, on 16 April 2019 the Central Electoral Commission refused to accept the format of the proposed political debate. It found that the applicant company had not complied with the principle of proportionality in selecting the participants, in particular that political parties had to be treated according to the results achieved in previous equivalent elections. It noted that at the time Vox held

no seats in the national parliament at the time, having received only a small share of the vote in the previous general election.

The Supreme Court endorsed the decision and the Constitutional Court ultimately, in 2023, declared the applicant company's amparo appeal inadmissible.

Relying on Article 10 (freedom of expression), the applicant company complains that the CEC's 2019 decision banned the broadcasting of the election debate in its originally planned format, and therefore amounted to a breach of the freedom to impart information and the public's right to receive it.

No violation of Article 10 read in the light of Article 3 of Protocol No 1

[Borovyk and Toporkova v. Ukraine](#) (nos. 2091/19 and 22953/19)

[Cherkasov and Kuzin v. Ukraine](#) (nos. 72982/17 and 74407/17)

Both cases concern suspension of pension payments in connection with the armed conflict.

The applicants in the first case are two Ukrainian nationals, Vira Semenivna Borovyk, born in 1947, and Lyubov Ivanivna Toporkova, born in 1935. They are both now deceased. As of August 2014, their pension payments were suspended owing to armed hostilities where they lived, in the eastern parts of Ukraine (Donetsk and Vuhlehirsk, the Donetsk Region). They could not relocate to government-controlled areas because of poor health and old age.

The applicants in the second case are Oleksandr Volodymyrovych Cherkasov and Sergiy Volodymyrovych Kuzin. They were born in 1958 and 1952, respectively, and live in Ivano-Frankivsk Region and Kyiv. They both used to live in Donetsk but, owing to hostilities in the area, they relocated to government-controlled territories where they obtained status as internally displaced persons ("IDPs"). Their pensions were suspended in 2016 because they had not opened a State-designated bank account, which IDPs were required to do to continue receiving social benefits.

All four applicants' challenges with the pension fund authorities and in the courts were ultimately unsuccessful.

Relying on Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property), the applicants in the first case complain that the suspension of their pension payments was unlawful and that the requirement to relocate and register as IDPs was excessive in view of their old age and poor health. They argue in particular that the authorities had not explored any other less excessive measures. They also rely on Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination).

Also relying on Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property) and Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination), the applicants in the second case complain that the obligation to have a State-designated bank to receive their pensions lacked certainty and was discriminatory as other pensioners who were not IDPs could receive their payments through any bank.

In the case of *Borovyk and Toporkova v. Ukraine*:

Violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1

Just satisfaction:

- Pecuniary damage: EUR 4,000 to each applicant
- Non-pecuniary damage: EUR 6,000 to each applicant

In the case of *Cherkasov and Kuzin v. Ukraine*:

Violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 regarding the period until 1 January 2017

No violation of Article 14 taken in conjunction with Article 1 of Protocol No. 1

- Non-pecuniary damage: EUR 800 to each applicant
- Costs and expenses: EUR 2,000 to each applicant

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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.

¹ Under Articles 43 and 44 of the Convention, Chamber judgments are not final. During the three-month period following a judgment's delivery, any party may request that the case be referred to the Grand Chamber of the Court. If such a request is made, a panel of five judges considers whether the case deserves further examination. In that event, the Grand Chamber will hear the case and deliver a final judgment. If the referral request is refused, the Chamber judgment will become final on that day. Under Article 28 of the Convention, judgments delivered by a Committee are final. Once a judgment becomes final, it is transmitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for supervision of its execution. Further information about the execution process can be found here: www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/execution

² Committee judgments, as well as inadmissibility and strike-out decisions are final.