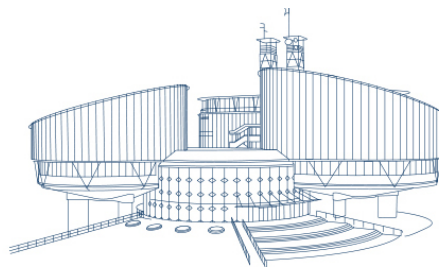


PRESS RELEASE

JUDGMENTS AND DECISIONS OF 10 SEPTEMBER 2026

ECHR 218 (2026) 10.09.2026

Issued by the Registrar of the Court



The European Court of Human Rights has today notified in writing two judgments¹ and eight decisions²:

- one Chamber judgment is summarised below;
- one Committee judgment, concerning issues which have already been examined by the Court, and the eight decisions, can be consulted on Hudoc and do not appear in this press release.

The judgment below is only available in French.

Lacote v. Belgium (application no. 17596/23)

The applicant, Mr Lacote, is a French national who was born in 1966 and is currently detained in Bruges Prison.

The case concerns the refusal to examine prosecution witnesses during appeal proceedings, following which the Bruges Court of Appeal convicted the applicant of murder.

Relying on Article 6 §§ 1 (right to a fair trial) and 3 (d) (right to examine witnesses) and Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the European Convention on Human Rights, the applicant complains that his inability to have examined the nine prosecution witnesses, including P.J. and J.M., breached his right to a fair trial.

No violation of Article 6 §§ 1 and 3 (d)

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.

¹ Under Articles 43 and 44 of the Convention, Chamber judgments are not final. During the three-month period following a Chamber 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 Inadmissibility and strike-out decisions are final

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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.