EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Press Release
issued by the Registrar of the Court

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New interstate application lodged by Slovakia against Belgium

The Government of the Slovak Republic has lodged a new interstate application against the Kingdom of Belgium.

The case concerns the death of J.C., a Slovak national, following an incident involving the Belgian police at the Brussels-Charleroi Airport.

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This is the 31st interstate application that the Court has received since 1956. You can find out more about interstate cases before the Court here.

On 27 February 2025 the Government of Slovakia lodged an application against Belgium under Article 33 of the Convention. It has been registered under application no. 6187/25.

The case concerns allegations of J.C.'s death following the use of physical restraint by the police during his detention in a cell at Brussels-Charleroi Airport and of the effectiveness of the ensuing investigation in Belgium. He had been arrested for allegedly boarding an aeroplane without a passport.

The Slovak Government rely on Articles 2 (right to life/investigation), 3 (prohibition of inhuman and degrading treatment/investigation), 8 (right to respect for private and family life) and 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

In accordance with Rule 51 § 1 of the Rules of Court (assignment of applications and subsequent procedure), the President of the Court has assigned the case to Section I of the European Court of Human Rights and gave notice of the application to the respondent State on 3 March 2025. The 12-week time-limit for the purpose of potential third-party interventions started to run from the notification date.

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This is the first time that Slovakia and Belgium have been involved in an interstate case before the Court. A full list of pending and completed interstate applications can be found here. For a more detailed explanation of interstate applications, please see our FAQ.

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. To receive the Court's press releases, please subscribe here: www.echr.coe.int/RSS/en or follow us on X (Twitter) @ECHR_CEDH and Bluesky @echr.coe.int.

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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.