



## The time-limit for applying to the European Court of Human Rights is four months from the date of the final domestic decision

As of 1 February 2022 the time-limit for submitting an application to the European Court of Human Rights is four months following the final domestic judicial decision in the case, which is usually a judgment delivered by the highest court in the country concerned. The time-limit was previously six months.

This new time-limit is not retroactive: it does not apply to applications in which the final domestic decision was taken prior to 1 February 2022. In other words, it will only apply to applications in which the final domestic decision is given from 1 February 2022 onwards.

The four-month time-limit for applying to the Court after the final domestic decision is one of the admissibility criteria laid down in Article 35 of the Convention. If even one of these criteria is not met the application will be declared inadmissible, which is why it is essential to comply with all the requirements when submitting an application to the Court.

The change to the time-limit for applying to the Court arises out of Protocol No. 15 to the European Convention on Human Rights, which has been signed and ratified by the 47 member States of the Council of Europe. This text amending the Convention [entered into force](#) on 1 August 2021, but provided for a transition period before the change of time-limit became effective.

All the relevant information is available on the [website](#) of the European Court of Human Rights.

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Protocol No. 15: [Protocol No. 15 amending the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms](#); [Details of Treaty No. 213 – Protocol No. 15](#); [Explanatory report on Protocol No. 15](#)

The Convention and its Protocols: [The European Convention on Human Rights – A living instrument](#)

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### Press contacts

During the current public-health crisis, journalists can continue to contact the Press Unit via [echrpess@echr.coe.int](mailto:echrpess@echr.coe.int).

### Denis Lambert

Tracey Turner-Tretz

Inci Ertekin

Neil Connolly

Jane Swift

**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.