

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

FIRST SECTION

DECISION

Application no. 25717/21
István ZSIFKOVICS and Others against Hungary
and 2 other applications
(see appended table)

The European Court of Human Rights (First Section), sitting on 19 May 2022 as a Committee composed of:

Alena Poláčková, *President,*
Raffaele Sabato,
Davor Derenčinović, *judges,*

and Attila Teplán, *Acting Deputy Section Registrar,*

Having regard to the above applications lodged on the various dates indicated in the appended table,

Having regard to the declarations submitted by the respondent Government requesting the Court to strike the applications out of the list of cases,

Having deliberated, decides as follows:

FACTS AND PROCEDURE

The list of applicants is set out in the appended table.

The applicants were represented by Mr I. Barbalics, a lawyer practising in Budapest.

The applicants' complaints under Article 6 § 1 of the Convention concerning the excessive length of civil proceedings were communicated to the Hungarian Government ("the Government").

THE LAW

Having regard to the similar subject matter of the applications, the Court finds it appropriate to examine them jointly in a single decision.

After unsuccessful friendly-settlement negotiations, the Government informed the Court that they proposed to make unilateral declarations with a view to resolving the issues raised by these complaints. They further

requested the Court to strike out the applications in accordance with Article 37 of the Convention.

The Government acknowledged the excessive length of civil proceedings. They offered to pay the applicants the amounts detailed in the appended table and invited the Court to strike the applications out of the list of cases in accordance with Article 37 § 1 (c) of the Convention. The amounts would be converted into the currency of the respondent State at the rate applicable on the date of payment, and would be payable within three months from the date of notification of the Court's decision. In the event of failure to pay these amounts within the above-mentioned three-month period, the Government undertook to pay simple interest on them, from the expiry of that period until settlement, at a rate equal to the marginal lending rate of the European Central Bank during the default period plus three percentage points.

The payment will constitute the final resolution of the cases.

The applicants were sent the terms of the Government's unilateral declarations several weeks before the date of this decision. The Court has not received a response from the applicants accepting the terms of the declarations.

The Court observes that Article 37 § 1 (c) enables it to strike a case out of its list if:

> "... for any other reason established by the Court, it is no longer justified to continue the examination of the application".

Thus, it may strike out applications under Article 37 § 1 (c) on the basis of a unilateral declaration by a respondent Government even if the applicants wish the examination of the cases to be continued (see, in particular, the *Tahsin Acar v. Turkey* judgment (preliminary objections) [GC], no. 26307/95, §§ 75-77, ECHR 2003-VI).

The Court has established clear and extensive case-law concerning complaints relating to the excessive length of civil proceedings (see, for example, *Gazsó v. Hungary,* no. 48322/12, 16 July 2015).

Noting the admissions contained in the Government's declarations as well as the amount of compensation proposed – which is consistent with the amounts awarded in similar cases – the Court considers that it is no longer justified to continue the examination of the applications (Article 37 § 1 (c)).

In the light of the above considerations, the Court is satisfied that respect for human rights as defined in the Convention and the Protocols thereto does not require it to continue the examination of the applications (Article 37 § 1 *in fine*).

Finally, the Court emphasises that, should the Government fail to comply with the terms of their unilateral declarations, the applications may be restored to the list in accordance with Article 37 § 2 of the Convention (*Josipović v. Serbia* (dec.), no. 18369/07, 4 March 2008).

In view of the above, it is appropriate to strike the cases out of the list.

For these reasons, the Court, unanimously,

Decides to join the applications;

Takes note of the terms of the respondent Government's declarations and of the arrangements for ensuring compliance with the undertakings referred to therein;

Decides to strike the applications out of its list of cases in accordance with Article 37 § 1 (c) of the Convention.

Done in English and notified in writing on 9 June 2022.

Attila Teplán Acting Deputy Registrar	Alena Poláčková President

APPENDIX

List of applications raising complaints under Article 6 § 1 of the Convention (excessive length of civil proceedings)

No.	Application no. Date of introduction	Applicant's name Year of birth	Representative's name and location	Date of receipt of Government's declaration	Date of receipt of applicant's comments, if any	Amount awarded for pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage and costs and expenses per applicant/household (in euros)[1]
1.	25717/21 07/05/2021 (29 applicants)	**István ZSIFKOVICS** 1953 **Mariann ANTOSNÉ SZÍVA** 1956 **Szilveszter Tibor BALOG** 1954 **József BECZŐK** 1942 **Zoltánné BEDŐK** 1940 **Miklós BERTALAN** 1950 **Lajos Károlyné BÖDÖCS** 1958 **Imre CSENGERI** 1955 **Lászlóné CSIZMAZIA** 1950 **Lajosné GROÁK** 1941 **Csabáné KALUCZA** 1946 **Zoltán KERTÉSZ** 1948 **Veronika KRAUZIERITZNÉ LADOS** 1961 **Lászlóné NÉMETH** 1937 **Szilárd Gergely OROVICA** 1977 **Károlyné ÓVÁRI** 1946 **Ferencné PAPP** 1942 **László SOLYMOS** 1947 **Gézáné SZABÓ** 1941 **Károly SZABÓ** 1952 **Tamás Gyula SZARVAS** 1946 **Vendelné SZŰCS** 1947 **Mihályné UHRIN** 1969 **Csaba Lajos VÖLGYI** 1955 **József ZSIDEI** 1958 **Ferencné ZSIGOVICS**	Barbalics István Budapest	12/04/2022	23/04/2022	9,100

No.	Application no. Date of introduction	Applicant's name Year of birth	Representative's name and location	Date of receipt of Government's declaration	Date of receipt of applicant's comments, if any	Amount awarded for pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage and costs and expenses per applicant/household (in euros)[1]
		1969 **Zoltán ZSOLDOS** 1977 Household **Gergely NAGY** 1957 **István NAGY** 1954				
2.	35928/21 30/06/2021 (14 applicants)	**Zsuzsanna Zsófia VISONTAI** 1971 **Miklós SZIVA** 1954 **József MAY** 1970 **István FÖLDI** 1930 **József SZEMETI** 1952 **Ferencné SZEPESI** 1946 **György SZABÓ** 1953 **Józsefné ALMÁSI** 1938 **Tibor NAGY** 1960 **Katalin VÁRADI** 1967 **Miklós Ferencné BŐLE** 1959 **Ernő BÍRÓ** 1951 **László ÓDOR** 1951 **László PORDÁNY** 1951	Barbalics István Budapest	13/04/2022	23/04/2022	9,100
3.	46670/21 08/09/2021 (21 applicants)	**Géza VADÁSZ** 1943 **Kálmán BENDE** 1937 **Lajos GULYÁS** 1953 **Lászlóné ERDŐS** 1965 **Zoltán ZÁDORI** 1954 **Ferencné IHÁSZ** 1954 **Lajosné EGYED** 1939 **László BOROS** 1947 **Attila FERENC** 1950 **Kálmán KASZÁS** 1961 **András ERDŐHÁTI** 1961	Barbalics István Budapest	14/04/2022	23/04/2022	9,100

No.	Application no. Date of introduction	Applicant's name Year of birth	Representative's name and location	Date of receipt of Government's declaration	Date of receipt of applicant's comments, if any	Amount awarded for pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage and costs and expenses per applicant/household (in euros)[1]
		István József BEZZEG 1934 **Lívia Mária STOMPNÉ KOLLÁR** 1957 **István TÓTH** 1959 **József BÖRZSEI** 1959 **János TAKÁCS** 1943 **Mátyás STIPKOVITS** 1951 **Tibor PINTYE** 1958 **Ferenc István KOVÁCS** 1952 **Márta SZELÉNÉ VARGA** 1964 **Tibor GÖMÖRI** 1961				

[1] Plus any tax that may be chargeable to the applicants.