



Current activities at the ECHR during the global health crisis

Since Monday 16 March the Court has taken a number of exceptional measures in the context of the global health crisis.

In accordance with the lockdown measures adopted by the host country, and while facilitating teleworking and electronic communication, the Court has maintained its core activities (in particular the handling of priority cases) and has continued to receive applications and allocate them to the relevant judicial formations.

During this period, only individuals – judges and members of the Registry – whose physical presence is essential have been allowed to access the Human Rights Building, on a voluntary basis and while complying strictly with the health precautions prescribed by the authorities.

Procedures have been put in place to allow requests for interim measures under Rule 39 of the [Rules of Court](#), relating primarily to expulsion and extradition cases, to be examined.

The six-month time-limit for the lodging of applications, under Article 35 of the [European Convention on Human Rights](#), has exceptionally been suspended for a one-month period running from Monday 16 March 2020. All time-limits allotted in proceedings that are currently pending have been suspended for one month, with effect from Monday 16 March 2020.

At the same time, making use of the written procedure, the Grand Chamber has been able to continue work on some pending cases. The Chambers have adopted judgments concerning 15 applications and decisions concerning 26 applications, while the Committees have adopted judgments relating to 49 applications and decisions relating to 146 applications.

Lastly, the following have been notified in writing and published on [Hudoc](#): ten judgments (two Chamber and eight Committee cases) on Tuesday 17 March; six judgments (one Chamber and five Committee cases) and 19 decisions on Thursday 19 March; 14 judgments (six Chamber and eight Committee cases) on Tuesday 24 March; and 18 judgments (five Chamber and 13 Committee cases) and 59 decisions on Thursday 26 March.

However, the Court has decided not to notify any further judgments and decisions until normal activity resumes. Accordingly, with the exception of the Grand Chamber and particularly urgent cases, the Court will continue to adopt judgments and decisions but will postpone their delivery until then.

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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.

