



Protocol No. 15 to the European Convention on Human Rights enters into force

[Protocol No. 15](#), amending the European Convention on Human Rights, entered into force on Sunday 1 August 2021.

This Protocol amends the Preamble to the Convention, which now includes a reference to the subsidiarity principle and to the margin of appreciation doctrine. In addition, the 6-month time-limit for submitting an application to the Court after the final national decision will be reduced to four months, starting from 1 February 2022.

This Protocol also makes the following changes to the Convention:

- concerning the admissibility criterion of “significant disadvantage”, the second condition, namely that a case which has not been duly considered by a domestic tribunal cannot be rejected, has been amended and this proviso is now deleted;
- the parties to a case may no longer object to its relinquishment by a Chamber in favour of the Grand Chamber;
- candidates for a post of judge at the Court must be less than 65 years of age at the date by which the list of three candidates has been requested by the Parliamentary Assembly.

Adopted in 2013, Protocol No. 15 has been ratified by all the member States of the Council of Europe.

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

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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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.