

## The functioning of the Court during the period of confinement

The Court has already extended certain procedural time-limits to take account of the difficulties faced by parties during the COVID-19 crisis (see press releases nos. [094](#), [103](#) and [108](#)).

In addition, in order to comply with the measures adopted by the French authorities and with a view to pursuing its own policy and that of the Council of Europe of seeking to protect its staff from contracting and potentially spreading COVID-19, the Court has taken a number of steps designed to reduce to the minimum the physical presence of staff in the Human Rights Building. The great majority of staff are able to work remotely, even if for certain activities presence is required, notably for processing urgent cases and requests for provisional measures, dealing with incoming mail and maintaining the IT service necessary to allow the Court to function in so far as possible remotely.

However, certain tasks that cannot be carried out remotely and which are not critically urgent have had to be deferred during the confinement period since they would have necessitated increased physical presence. This has had the following effects on the way the Court functions:

### *Single Judge decisions of inadmissibility*

Single Judge decisions will continue to be taken but they will not be notified to the applicant until the end of the confinement period.

### *Communications*

Applications will not be formally notified (communicated) to respondent States during the confinement period except for important and urgent cases.

### *Deliberations of judicial formations*

The Grand Chamber, Chambers and Committees will continue to examine cases under a written procedure in so far as possible.

### *Notification of decisions and judgments*

Decisions and judgments will be signed by the (Deputy) Section Registrar only and will be notified to the parties electronically, in other words for Governments via the secure sites and for applicants via the eComms platform. Where applicants have not availed themselves of the eComms platform, the judgment or decision will not be notified to either party during the confinement period, with the exception of urgent cases. Judgments and decisions notified electronically will continue to be published on [HUDOC](#) on the day of delivery.

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### **Press contacts**

Journalists can continue to contact the Press Unit via [echrpess@echr.coe.int](mailto:echrpess@echr.coe.int)

**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.