



The Registrar – La Greffière

Strasbourg, 25 January 2022

Subject: Change of time-limit for lodging applications

Dear Sir or Madam,

[Protocol No. 15](#) to the European Convention on Human Rights came into force on 1 August 2021 once it had been signed and ratified by the 47 member States of the Council of Europe. The main changes brought about by this Protocol consist in the additions to the Convention of express references to the principle of subsidiarity and the margin of appreciation doctrine.

However, another major change directly concerns applicants and their representatives.

Paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the Convention has been amended to **reduce from six to four months** the time-limit following the date of the final domestic decision within which an application must be lodged with the Court (see Articles 4 and 5 of the Protocol). In order to enable potential applicants to become fully aware of the new deadline, it was provided in Article 8, paragraph 3, of the Protocol that this change would take effect only after a period of six months following the entry into force of the Protocol, thus **from 1 February 2022** onwards. In addition this new time-limit is not **retroactive** since the last sentence of Article 8 paragraph 3 states that it does not apply to applications in respect of which the final domestic decision was taken before the application of the new rule.

The Court has informed the public of this change by a [statement](#) and on its website, on the [applicants' pages](#), in English and French but also in [non-official languages](#), and at all official events involving stakeholders in the Convention system.

In view of the impact of this change – since failure to meet the new deadline will of course render an application inadmissible – I would be grateful if you could disseminate this information as widely as possible on your websites and by other means at your disposal in order to help the Court inform applicants of this major development.

The guidance for applicants, in English and French but also in non-official languages, will consequently be updated and made accessible on the [Court's website](#) from 1 February 2022.

Yours faithfully,

Marialena Tsirli
Registrar