

PRESS RELEASE

ECtHR launches new system for single judge decisions

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The Council of Bars and Law Societies welcomes the launch of a new system for single judge the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

From June, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) will provide precise motives for the inadmissibility of decisions rendered by a single judge. Until now, inadmissibility decisions had not been justified, with the applicant or their lawyer simply receiving a letter informing them that their application had been rejected without any further explanation.

This new system will modify the way in which the Court delivers single-judge decisions. In its [statement](#), the Court stated that “instead of a decision-letter, applicants will receive a decision of the Court sitting in single judge formation in one of the Court’s official languages and signed by a single judge, accompanied by a letter in the relevant national language. The decision will include, in many cases, reference to specific grounds of inadmissibility. However, the Court will still issue global rejections in some cases, for example, where applications contain numerous ill-founded, misconceived or vexatious complaints.”

The CCBE welcomes this new practice of the Court. For several years, the CCBE has been asking for this change, highlighting that the absence of motivation of inadmissibility decisions was problematic for lawyers as they were unable to explain the decision to their clients. The CCBE has raised this issue at each one of its bilateral meetings with the Court.

The CCBE has enjoyed privileged relations with the Court for many years, with bilateral meetings being organised since 2013. The CCBE notably published [a practical guide for lawyers intervening before the Court](#). This guide, published for the first time in 2014 and again in 2016, is the result of a close cooperation and continuous dialogue between the CCBE and the Court.

About the CCBE:

The CCBE represents the bars and law societies of 45 countries, and through them more than 1 million European lawyers. Founded in 1960, the CCBE is recognised as the voice of the European legal profession by the EU institutions, and acts as the liaison between the EU and Europe’s national bars and law societies. The CCBE has regular institutional contacts with those European Commission officials, and members and staff of the European Parliament, who deal with issues affecting the legal profession. The CCBE is an international non-profit-making association incorporated in Belgium.

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