

**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS**  
**COMITE EUROPEEN DES DROITS SOCIAUX**



28 May 2003

**COMPLAINT N° 14/2003**

**International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)**

**v. France**

**Observations from the French Government  
on the admissibility**

**registered on 16 May 2003**

(TRANSLATION)

**Observations of the French Government on the admissibility of complaint No 14/2003 submitted by the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues to the European Committee of Social Rights**

In a letter dated 10 March 2003, the European Committee of Social Rights was kind enough to inform the Government of the complaint which the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH) had lodged with it on 3 March 2003, so that the Government could submit comments on the admissibility of the complaint before the deadline of 5 May 2003.

The Government has the following observations to make on the admissibility of the complaint.

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The Federation complains that the 2002 Finance (Amendment) Act modifying the State medical assistance and universal medical cover scheme was introduced in breach of Articles 13 and 17 of Part II and Articles E and G of Part V of the Revised European Social Charter of 3 May 1996.

The Government does not contest the fact that the applicant association may, contrary to the *Ligue française des droits de l'Homme* and the *Groupement d'information et de soutien aux travailleurs immigrés (GTSI)*, with which the FIDH states that it prepared the complaint, be regarded as a non-governmental international organisation which has consultative status with the Council of Europe and is included on the list established for the purpose by the Governmental Committee under Article 1 b. of the Additional Protocol to the European Social Charter Providing for a System of Collective Complaints.

Moreover, it would not seem that the FIDH's complaint fails to meet any of the formal requirements set out in the additional protocol, in particular Article 4, and in the committee's rules of procedure.

With regard to the substance of the applicant's complaint, it would be premature, at a stage when the admissibility of the complaint is being considered, to discuss the merits of the arguments concerning the violation of the above-mentioned Articles of the Charter. The Government reserves the right, however, to submit detailed arguments at a later date concerning the merits of the FIDH's arguments, if the complaint is declared admissible.

In the light of all the above considerations, the Government relies on the committee to assess the admissibility of the complaint.

The Deputy Director of Human Rights

Antoine Buchet