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Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights

Country factsheet

Last update
18 September 2026

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

French version:
Fiche pays de Chypre

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Cover design and layout:
Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe

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Table of contents

I. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 4

Positive obligation to protect the right to life and combat human trafficking 5

Actions of security forces and effective investigations 5

Ill-treatment and effective investigations 5

Conditions of detention 5

Lawfulness of asylum seekers' detention 5

Functioning of justice 5

Right to marry 6

Protection against discrimination 6

Protection of property rights 6

Electoral rights 6

II. MAIN ISSUES PENDING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS 7

Protection against ill-treatment - specific situations 8

Conditions of detention 8

Length of judicial proceedings 8

I. Main achievements

This chapter presents short summaries of a selection of the main reforms and achievements reported in final resolutions since the Convention system was amended in 1998 by Protocol No. 11, with a clear focus on recent reforms, referring however also to important earlier developments.

In view of the wealth of cases closed, the selection concentrates on those which have led to changes of legislation, government regulations, the adoption of new policies or general guidance from superior courts. As a rule, the overview does not cover information on measures providing individual redress to applicants.

The reforms are in principle presented in the order corresponding to the thematic domains used in the specialised database HUDOC-EXEC of the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

Many reforms address issues which appear to be on-going challenges in member states. The effects of reforms adopted at one point in time may thus need to be monitored and possibly revisited as conditions change.[1]

Definitions of the terms used in the context of the supervision of the execution of the European Court's judgments are available in the dedicated Glossary.

[1] The presentation is limited to the information provided at the time of the adoption of the final resolution. It is recalled in this context that the Committee of Ministers has issued Recommendation (2004)5 on the verification of the compatibility of draft laws, existing laws and administrative practice with standards laid down in the European Convention on Human Rights.

Main achievements

Positive obligation to protect the right to life and combat human trafficking

Criminalisation of human trafficking following the adoption of a law in 2007 and the introduction of changes in the relevant visa regime, including the abolition of the "artist" visa for third country nationals, to avoid abuse.

Rantsev (25965/04)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2017)95

Actions of security forces and effective investigations

In August 2002, right to legal aid in civil as well as criminal proceedings was granted to victims of human rights violations, including relatives of persons who allegedly died as a result of a serious police abuse.

Egmez, Denizci and Others (30873/96, 27207/95)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2006)13

Ill-treatment and effective investigations

The system for investigating complaints of ill-treatment by police officers has been significantly improved in terms of independence, promptness, and quality. In June 2014, the Attorney General issued binding instructions to the Chief of Police on the procedure to be followed in cases of alleged ill-treatment. In August 2022, a new police order (written protocol) was issued on the cooperation between the police and the Independent Authority for the Investigation of Allegations and Complaints against the Police. Regarding the medical examination of alleged victims of ill-treatment, in 2017 the Law ratifying the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was amended to ensure forensic medical examination is carried out in accordance with the Istanbul Protocol. Measures were also taken to prevent ill-treatment by police officers, in particular the Chief of Police's regular zero tolerance messages, an amended 2016 Police Code of Ethics and multiple trainings and capacity building activities.

Khani Kabbara (24459/12)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2022)348

Conditions of detention

In 2014, an internal investigation procedure was introduced to establish the facts in cases of alleged ill-treatment by prison guards and to attribute responsibility and disciplinary action. In parallel with the internal investigation, the matter shall be reported to the police for a criminal investigation.

Seagal (50756/13)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2020)311

Lawfulness of asylum seekers' detention

On 4 February 2021 the Law Providing for the Establishment and Operation of the Administrative Court introduced a remedy with automatic suspensive effect when, outside of asylum proceedings, an individual alleges that his or her expulsion would violate Articles 2 and/or 3 of the Convention.

M.A. (41872/10)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2024)42

Functioning of justice

- Remedies against excessive length of proceedings

An effective remedy in excessively lengthy civil and administrative proceedings was provided by specific legislation in 2010.

Gregoriou (62242/00)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2013)154

➢ Contempt of court	
To ensure impartiality, the Courts of Justice Law was amended in 2009 so that cases of contempt can no longer be tried by the court in the face of which the alleged contempt was committed, but by a separate court.	***Kyprianou*** (73797/01) Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2015)47
Right to marry	
A law of 2002 ensured that members of the Turkish Cypriot community are allowed to marry on the same conditions as Greek Cypriots.	***Selim*** (47293/99) Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2003)49
Protection against discrimination	
➢ Displaced persons	
Following a legislative amendment in 2013, children of displaced women following the Turkish military intervention in 1974 have also been recognised as a "displaced person" putting them on an equal footing with children of "displaced men", inter alia with regard to housing assistance.	***Vrountou*** (33631/06) Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2017)2
➢ Sexual orientation	
Sexual relations between men over 18 years were decriminalised.	***Modinos*** (15070/89) Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2001)152
Protection of property rights	
A reform was undertaken to prevent significant delays between publication of the notice of acquisition of property and the payment of compensation for compulsory acquisition; the awarded compensation must represent the market value of the property at the time of deprivation rather than at the time of notice.	***Michael Theodossiou Ltd*** (31811/04) Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2016)5
Electoral rights	
The Law on "the exercise of the right to vote and to be elected by members of the Turkish community with habitual residence in free territory of the Republic" from February 2006 granted Turkish Cypriots the right to vote in parliamentary elections in 2006.	***Aziz*** (69949/01) Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2007)77

II. Main issues pending before the Committee of Ministers

This chapter presents the main issues pending in cases/groups of cases currently under the Committee of Ministers' supervision. The relevant supervision procedure is indicated for each case/group of cases.

Detailed information on the status of execution of these cases as well as on the Committee of Ministers' supervision process is available on the specialised database HUDOC-EXEC of the website of the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

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Main issues pending

Protection against ill-treatment - specific situations

Collective expulsion of the applicants arrived by sea and the lack of an effective remedy in this regard.	***M.A. and Z.R.*** (39090/20) Judgment final on 08/01/2025 Enhanced supervision **Status of execution**
Shortcomings in investigation into an alleged rape accompanied by prejudicial **gender stereotypes and victim-blaming attitudes**.	***X group*** (40733/22) Judgment final on 27/05/2025 Enhanced supervision **Status of execution**

Conditions of detention

Degrading treatment of the applicant due to the poor conditions of his detention at the Nicosia Central Prison.	***Danilczuk*** (21318/12) Judgment final on 03/07/2018 Enhanced supervision **Status of execution**

Length of judicial proceedings

Excessive length of civil proceedings and ineffectiveness of the existing remedies in this respect.	***Altius Insurance LTD*** (41151/20) Judgment final on 19/02/2024 Enhanced supervision **Status of execution**
Excessive length of criminal proceedings and lack of effective remedies in this respect.	***Foutas Aristidou*** **group** (11990/15) Judgment final on 07/06/2022 Standard supervision **Status of execution**

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. The Committee of Ministers is the Council of Europe's decision-making body, composed by the foreign ministers of all 46 member states. It is a forum where national approaches to European problems and challenges are discussed, in order to find collective responses. The Committee of Ministers participates in the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights through the supervision of the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

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