

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 9 December 2022

Minister,

Although the Russian Federation ceased to be a member of the Council of Europe on 16 March 2022 and a High Contracting Party to the European Convention on Human Rights as from 16 September 2022, it remains under a binding international law obligation to execute the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights delivered against it. This obligation entails the implementation by Russia of individual measures to put, as far as possible, the applicants back in the position they would have been had the violations not occurred, and to adopt general measures to prevent the repetition of similar violations.

The Committee of Ministers continues to supervise the execution of judgments against the Russian Federation at its quarterly human rights meetings (CM-DH meetings). It is deeply regrettable that the Russian Federation has chosen not to participate in these meetings and has stopped all communications with the Council of Europe in respect of the implementation of the judgments by the Court. The Committee has nevertheless adopted decisions, including interim resolutions, at its CM-DH meetings (in March, June and September respectively) which were transmitted to the Russian authorities after each meeting.

At the request of the Committee of Ministers, I would like to draw your attention to the interim resolutions and other decisions adopted by the Committee at its most recent CM-DH meeting (6-8 December), which are as follows:

- In *Georgia v. Russia (I)*, concerning the arrest, detention and expulsion from the Russian Federation of large numbers of Georgian nationals from the end of September 2006 until the end of January 2007, the Committee adopted an interim resolution, strongly exhorting the Russian authorities to pay the just satisfaction awarded by the Court, together with the default interest accrued, without any further delay;
- In *Georgia v. Russia (II)*, concerning various violations of the Convention in the context of the armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Georgia in August 2008, the Committee adopted another interim resolution, urging the Russian authorities in particular to investigate the serious crimes committed during the active phase of the hostilities, as well as during the occupation, and to ensure a safe return of persons to their homes in the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia;

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Mr Sergey Lavrov
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Russian Federation

F - 67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France

Tel. + 33 (0)3 88 41 20 51
+ 33 (0)3 88 41 20 00

Fax: + 33 (0)3 88 41 27 99
+ 33 (0)3 88 41 27 40

- In the *Catan and Others* and *Mozer* groups of cases, concerning various violations of the Convention in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova, the Committee deeply deplored the Russian authorities' continued failure to execute the judgments and exhorted them to rapidly pay the sums awarded by the Court, as well as to submit action plans with concrete measures;
- In the cases of *Jehovah's Witnesses of Moscow and Others* and *Krupko and Others*, concerning the dissolution of the applicant religious community entailing a ban on its activities, dispersal of a peaceful religious ceremony and the subsequent deprivation of liberty of some of its participants, the Committee strongly urged the authorities to reverse the ban imposed on the activities of all Jehovah's Witnesses organisations and to discontinue all criminal proceedings against them;
- In the *Navalnyy and Ofitserov* group of cases, concerning the conviction of the applicants of acts indistinguishable from regular commercial activities by judicial decisions that were arbitrary, unforeseeable and manifestly unreasonable, the Committee deeply deplored that Mr Aleksey Navalnyy still remains in detention under harsh conditions and called for his release without delay;
- In the *Volodina* group of cases, concerning the failure to protect women from domestic violence, the Committee urged the authorities to introduce proper criminal sanctions for domestic violence and to ensure the adequate protection of victims.

The relevant interim resolutions and other decisions are enclosed.

On behalf of the Council of Europe, I urge the Russian authorities to comply with their obligations under international law, including the obligation to fully and effectively implement the judgments adopted by the European Court of Human Rights with regard to the Russian Federation.

Yours sincerely,


Marija Pejčinović Burić

*F - 67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France*

*Tél. + 33 (0)3 88 41 20 51
+ 33 (0)3 88 41 20 00*

*Fax: + 33 (0)3 88 41 27 99
+ 33 (0)3 88 41 27 40*