ESTONIA



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

Directorate General
Human Rights and Rule of law

Country factsheet

Last update
18 September 2026

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

French version:
Fiche pays de l'Estonie

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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

Actions of security forces - Right to life and ill-treament 5

Actions of security forces and effective investigations 5

Conditions of detention 5

Right to liberty and security 5

Functioning of justice 5

No punishment without law 6

Protection of private life 6

II. MAIN ISSUES PENDING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS 7

Right to respect for private life 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.

Actions of security forces - Right to life and ill-treament

Domestic remedies were improved, in particular by the codification in the State Liability Act (2013) of a right to compensation for unlawful state action and the strengthening of state liability in case of violations of the right to life or prohibition of torture.

Kochetkov (41653/05)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2013)9

Actions of security forces and effective investigations

Reforms, notably through legislative measures in 2010, ensured that the use of force during arrests and other interventions by security forces must be proportionate. These measures included more precise instructions, notably as regards the use of lethal force and dangerous immobilisation techniques. They were complemented by extensive professional training. The independence of investigations is guaranteed, as pre-trial investigations are carried out by the investigative bodies of the Ministry of Interior under the supervision of the Director General of the Police and Border Guards Board unconnected with operational activities, while the prosecutor's office belongs to the Ministry of Justice and ensures the legality and efficiency of investigations. In addition, a right to damages is available in case of abuse by security forces.

Korobov and Others (10195/08+)
Final resolution CM/ResDH(2016)105

Mihhailov (64418/10)
Final resolution CM/ResDH(2017)365

Conditions of detention

The Imprisonment Act was amended in 2024 to shorten the maximum solitary confinement sanction and thus ensure that the time served consecutively in a punishment cell shall not exceed 14 days, which is also the maximum number of days allowed for a single disciplinary cell punishment to be imposed. For minors the time spent in a punishment cell shall not exceed three consecutive days.

Schmidt and Smigol (3501/20)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2025)11

Right to liberty and security

An arrested person may claim compensation for unjust detention under the Unjust Deprivation of Liberty (Compensation) Act if the person concerned is not brought before a judge within 48 hours. In addition, an explicit right to compensation was granted in the State Liability Act in case activities of a public authority have been established to be contrary to the Convention by the European Court. The review of the lawfulness of pre-trial detention was improved in 2014, allowing suspects to request access to relevant parts of the casefile.

Harkmann and Bergmann (2192/03+)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2010)158

Ovsjannikov (1346/12)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2015)136

Functioning of justice

- Fairness of proceedings

According to an amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure in 2011, courts can refuse a party's request to summon a minor to a hearing in cases related to sexual abuse or domestic violence; the testimony given by a minor during the pre-trial procedure can be allowed as evidence only in certain circumstances. According to amendments to the Code of Misdemeanour Procedure adopted in 2017 the counsel may request the appeal hearing to take place without the presence of the appellant.

Vronchenko (59632/09)
Final Resolution CMResDH(2016)309

Tolmachev (73748/13)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2018)43

- Access to court

The protection of third parties' rights in criminal proceedings has been reinforced by legislative amendments of 2015.

Rummi (63362/09)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2016)59

No punishment without law

Legal certainty was improved as a result of the repeal of a provision imposing criminal liability in cases where certain acts had caused what was vaguely referred to as "significant damage to the State".

Liivik (12157/05)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2010)157

Protection of private life

- Acquisition, use, disclosure or retention of private information

Guarantees were introduced to oblige the Security Service to use the proportionality test in the application of the "Disclosure Act" before publishing any information on a person, who had been in the service of the security authorities or the intelligence or counter-intelligence authorities of the former USSR and the Estonian SSR.

Sõro (22588/08)
Final resolution CM/ResDH(2017)152

- Secret surveillance

A 2013 amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure foresees that the use of information obtained by surveillance activities as evidence requires prior authorisation and that their conduct be in compliance with domestic law. The Supreme Court changed its case-law in 2017, stressing that judicial ex post control cannot eliminate the inadmissibility of evidence obtained without prior, sufficiently reasoned authorisations. Moreover, under the terms of the 2015 Compensation of Damage Caused in Offence Proceedings Act, compensation may also be requested for damages caused by unlawful surveillance activities.

Liblik and Others (173/15+)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2021)58

- Family life

In 2025, the Annual Plenary of Estonian Judges amended the 2015 Good Practice guidelines on judicial procedure. They decided that when courts cannot process all cases promptly, family-related civil cases must be prioritised. The updated guidelines stress urgent handling of matters involving minors or guardianship, including the appointment of guardians for minors or adults with limited capacity, custody and adoption cases, disputes about paternity or maintenance, and transactions made on behalf of minors or adults with limited capacity.
Additionally, the Supreme Court clarified how the Estonian Family Law Act should be applied in similar cases. It held that both the child's interests and those of the biological parent must be balanced when deciding on adoption or its annulment. If a biological parent has sufficiently indicated the possibility of being recognised as such by a court, their views must be considered under the Family Act - even if parenthood is not yet officially registered. Alternatively, proceedings should be suspended until biological parenthood is established.

I.V. (37031/21)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2025)356

Freedom of expression

- Prisoners' right to receive information

The Imprisonment Act was amended in 2019, enabling prisoners to access public legislation databases and registers of judicial decisions, the webpages of Parliament and the Chancellor of Justice.

Kalda (1574/13)
Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2019)109



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.

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.

Right to respect for private life

- Correspondence

Lack of sufficient procedural safeguards to protect privileged data during the seizure and the subsequent examination of a lawyer's laptop and mobile telephone in 2018.

Särgava (698/19)
Judgment final on 16/02/2022

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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