

*Council of Europe*  
*The Secretary General*

Strasbourg, 17 December 2025

Dear Minister,

As you know, the Russian Federation has a continued and clear binding international law obligation to implement the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (the Court) against it.

In accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CM) continues to supervise these cases and adopt decisions in respect of them. I am writing to you under its instructions. In 2025 and as far as Russian cases are concerned, the CM gave priority to inter-State and conflict-related cases, new key cases, and elder cases with "marked importance for Russia's international law responsibility under the Convention".

At its latest meeting concerning the execution of judgments of the Court (CMDH) on 2-4 December 2025, the CM adopted general decisions relating to the processing of cases in respect of the Russian Federation. It deeply regretted once again that the Russian authorities have ceased communication concerning the execution of judgments, as well as the absence of any indication that any measure has been taken to execute judgments of the Court against the Russian Federation since 2022. The CM also strongly urged the Russian Federation to comply with its obligations, under international law and the Convention, to fully abide by the judgments of the Court, including by paying the just satisfaction awarded by the Court, along with the interest accrued. I should like to stress that currently the total outstanding amount stands at over 3.1 billion euros, including the sums awarded by the Court in the two inter-State cases.

In total, the Committee adopted eight decisions this year, in 23 leading cases or groups in respect of the Russian Federation. All relevant decisions are enclosed. In line with the Committee's instructions, they have been brought to the attention of other relevant international organisations and bodies.

*J.*

Mr Sergey Lavrov  
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I would like to particularly underline four decisions concerning inter-State applications: *Ukraine v. Russia (re Crimea)*, *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia*, as well as *Georgia v. Russia (I) and (II)*. Two other decisions also concerned conflict-related cases (*Catan and Others group*, and *Mozer*, concerning the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova).

The case of *Ukraine v. Russia (re Crimea)*, concerning numerous violations stemming from the occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, was examined in March. The case of *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia*, joining four inter-State applications of unprecedented scope, was examined earlier this month and the decisions adopted there are of particular importance. In this judgment, the Court held the Russian Federation responsible for serious and systemic human rights violations in the context of the conflict in Ukraine since 2014, and following the full-scale invasion from February 2022. The judgment encompasses three applications lodged by Ukraine concerning multiple, flagrant and unprecedented Convention violations caused by numerous administrative practices committed by Russia from 2014 until September 2022 in Ukraine. It also includes one application lodged by the Netherlands concerning the downing of flight MH17 with the loss of all 298 passengers and crew on board.

I would also mention two other decisions adopted this year. The first concerned repressive measures taken by the authorities against Aleksey Navalnyy, including violations of his right to life, liberty, fair trial and assembly, with regard to some of which the Court established that they pursued an ulterior purpose to suppress political pluralism (*Navalnyy and Ofitserov group*). The second concerned violations of the right to respect for private life and the right to a fair trial in the context of operational search activities caused by laws found to be deficient in the judgments of the Court (*Roman Zakharov group*, *Bykov group*, *Kuzmina and Others group*, *Vanyan group*, *Avanesyan group*, *Smirnov group*, *Urukov group* and *Podchasov*).

As underlined by the CM in its recent decisions in the case of *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia*, the Council of Europe was founded in the wake of the Second World War out of the conviction that the pursuit of peace based on justice and international co-operation is vital for preservation of human society and civilisation. With this in mind and on behalf of the Council of Europe, I once again strongly urge your authorities to comply with their unconditional obligation to abide by all judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in respect of the Russian Federation and to take all required measures to execute them<sup>1</sup>.

Yours sincerely,



Alain Berset

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<sup>1</sup> As instructed by the Committee of Ministers, an information document offering an overview of the execution measures required in all leading Russian cases pending execution has been publicly available on the Council of Europe's website since March 2025 (it is regularly updated).