



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Use of the Russian language before the Court

On 16 January 2023 the plenary Court took note of the fact that, in accordance with Rule 34 § 2 of the Rules of Court: “In connection with applications lodged under Article 34 of the Convention, and for as long as no Contracting Party has been given notice of such an application in accordance with these Rules, all communications with and oral and written submissions by applicants or their representatives, if not in one of the Court’s official languages, shall be in one of the official languages of the Contracting Parties. If a Contracting Party is informed or given notice of an application in accordance with these Rules, the application and any accompanying documents shall be communicated to that State in the language in which they were lodged with the Registry by the applicant.”

In the light of the fact that the Russian Federation had ceased to be a High Contracting Party to the Convention on 16 September 2022, the plenary Court adopted the following decision as regards the use of the Russian language in individual applications lodged with the Court after that date:

1. In the exercise of the Court’s residual jurisdiction under Article 58 of the Convention, as interpreted in the plenary Court’s [Resolution](#) of 22 March 2022, applications lodged against the Russian Federation, either alone or together with another Contracting Party, may be lodged in the Russian language.
2. As regards applications against Contracting Parties other than the Russian Federation, the Court will continue to accept new applications in the Russian language for a transitional period of two years running from 16 September 2022 to 16 September 2024. During this time use of the Russian language as regards such applications will be kept under review and, if appropriate, be revisited by the plenary Court.