



Public hearings at the European Court of Human Rights

General information

All the Court's public hearings are filmed and a webcast placed on the Court's [Internet site](#). Hearings held in the morning can be viewed on the website from 2.30 p.m. onwards, while those held in the afternoon are available during the evening. There is no live broadcast. Hearings last approximately two hours with English and French interpreting.

The ECHR Press Unit can provide, upon request, a high definition film of the first 10 minutes of the hearing (i.e. TV compatible).

A press release is issued on the day of the hearing, including a summary of the facts and complaints, the composition of the Court and the names of the representatives of the parties attending the hearing.

After the hearing the Court begins its deliberations, which are held in private. Its ruling in the case is, however, made at a later stage. The date of the ruling is in general announced via a press release one week beforehand.

Rules of security and conduct

If journalists wish to attend a public hearing, they need to contact the ECHR Press Unit (echrpess@echr.coe.int) with the names of the journalists/camera operator wishing to attend and indicate if they are accredited by the Council of Europe.

Journalists who have registered in advance have priority as regards seats in the hearing room, which are then allocated to others on a first-come first-served basis.

Journalists must arrive at the main entrance of the Human Rights Building at least half an hour before the beginning of the hearing, with a valid passport or ID card and press card. Strict punctuality is requested. Entry to the courtroom after the start of oral submissions is not permitted in order to avoid any disruption to the proceedings.

Once the proceedings start, journalists may not move in and out of the hearing room. There is a break, half way through.

No filming is allowed in the Court's hearing room during the proceedings and journalists are kindly requested to turn off their laptops, cameras or any kind of electronic device. For use of laptops/mobile telephones, journalists can go to the Press room where the hearing is relayed live. There is a Wi-Fi connection in the main entrance hall.

It is however possible to take video footage and/or pictures before and/or after the hearing in the public parts of the Human Rights Building. At the very beginning of the proceedings, you are allowed to film or take pictures while the judges enter the chamber and sit in formation, but you must stop and take your seat or leave immediately afterwards.