

Resolution of the European Court of Human Rights on the consequences of the cessation of membership of the Russian Federation to the Council of Europe in light of Article 58 of the European Convention on Human Rights

The European Court of Human Rights (hereinafter "the Court"), sitting in plenary session on 21 and 22 March 2022, in accordance with Rule 20 § 1 of the Rules of Court;

HAVING REGARD to the Committee of Ministers' Decision CM/Del/Dec(2022)1426ter/2.3 of 25 February 2022 suspending the Russian Federation from its rights of representation in the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 8 of the Statute of the Council of Europe;

NOTING the communication, of the Secretary General dated 15 March 2022 to the Chair of the Committee of Ministers, of a notification of the same date by the Russian Federation of its withdrawal from the Council of Europe relying on the Statute of the Council of Europe, and of its intention to denounce the European Convention on Human Rights (hereinafter "the Convention");

HAVING REGARD to Opinion No. 300 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, adopted on 15 March 2022, which considered that the Russian Federation can no longer be a member State of the Council of Europe;

HAVING REGARD to the Committee of Ministers' Resolution CM/Res(2022)2 of 16 March 2022 on the cessation of the membership of the Russian Federation to the Council of Europe in the context of the procedure launched under Article 8 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, according to which the Russian Federation ceased to be a member of the Council of Europe as from 16 March 2022;

HAVING REGARD to the decision of the President of the Court of 16 March 2022, pursuant to Rule 9 § 1 of the Rules of Court, to suspend the examination of all applications against the Russian Federation pending the Court's consideration of the legal consequences of the Resolution CM/Res(2022)2 for the work of the Court;

CONSIDERING that the object and purpose of the Convention, as an instrument of human rights protection, call for an interpretation and application of its provisions so as to ensure practical and effective protection to those subject to the High Contracting Parties' jurisdiction;

CONSIDERING Article 58 of the Convention;

DECLARES THAT

- 1. The Russian Federation ceases to be a High Contracting Party to the Convention on 16 September 2022.
- 2. The Court remains competent to deal with applications directed against the Russian Federation in relation to acts or omissions capable of constituting a violation of the Convention provided that they occurred until 16 September 2022.
- 3. The suspension of the examination of all applications against the Russian Federation pursuant to the decision of the President of the Court of 16 March 2022 is lifted with immediate effect.
- 4. The present Resolution is without prejudice to the consideration of any legal issue, related to the consequences of the cessation of the Russian Federation's membership to the Council of Europe, which may arise in the exercise by the Court of its competence under the Convention to consider cases brought before it.