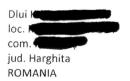


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#### **FOURTH SECTION**

ECHR-LE4.0R NCP IMSI CHB BB/rch

08/03/2019



Dear Sir,

# Communication to the respondent Government: non-contentious phase

On 5/03/2019, the President of the Section to which the case had been allocated decided to give notice of the application to the respondent Government<sup>1</sup>

I inform you that the Court has now adopted a new practice, where the proceedings after communication are split in two phases.

The first, non-contentious phase, allows the parties to explore possibilities of a friendly settlement. Should that first phase be unsuccessful, it is followed by the contentious one, where the parties exchange their observations.

The President of the Section has accordingly decided that the parties should be given until 19/04/2019 to discuss the terms of a settlement with the assistance of the Registry, without prejudging the outcome of the case should the friendly-settlement negotiations be unsuccessful.

# Friendly settlement

I therefore invite you to inform me **by the above date** of your position regarding a friendly settlement of your case and any proposals you may wish to make.

There is a requirement of strict confidentiality in respect of friendly-settlement negotiations <sup>2</sup>. Any proposals or submissions in this respect should be set out in a separate document, the contents of which must not be referred to in any submissions made in the context of the main proceedings.

### Contentious phase

If the parties do not settle the case by the above date, the contentious phase will start. Another 6-week time-limit will then be fixed for the Government to submit:

- a statement of facts, and
- their written observations on the admissibility and merits of the case.
- 1. Rule 54 § 2 (b) of the Rules of Court.
- 2. Rule 62 § 2.



#### Simultaneous examination

In the interests of the proper administration of justice, the Court intends to conduct simultaneously the proceedings in the applications listed in the Subject matter of the cases and

#### Priority

The Court decided to give priority to the application<sup>4</sup>.

#### Leading case

The Court considers that this application may become leading case.

## Official languages

I would inform you that at this stage of the proceedings all communications from applicants or their representatives should as a rule be made in one of the Court's official languages: English or French<sup>5</sup>.

#### Representation

The Rules of Court require that the applicants be represented by an "advocate" at this stage of the proceedings<sup>6</sup>.

I invite you to appoint a legal representative of your choice and return to me by **19/04/2019** the enclosed authority form. It should be duly completed and signed by both your representative and yourself.

If you have any difficulties in finding an advocate, your local or national bar association (U.N.B.R, Palatul de Justiție, Splaiul Independenței nr. 5, Sector 5, Cod 050 091, București) may be able to assist you.

Failure to return this form may lead the Court to conclude that you are no longer interested in pursuing your application and to strike it out of its list of cases.

Yours faithfully,

Marialena Tsirli Section Registrar

Enc.: Subject matter of the cases and Questions Authority form

<sup>3.</sup> Rule 42 § 2.

<sup>4.</sup> Rule 41.

<sup>5.</sup> Rule 34 § 3.

<sup>6.</sup> Rule 36 §§ 2 and 4.