

Interim Measures

Practical Information

What are Interim Measures?

When the Court receives an application it may decide that a State should take certain measures provisionally while it continues its examination of the case. This usually consists of requesting a State to refrain from doing something, such as not returning individuals to countries where it is alleged that they would face death or torture.

[Requests for interim measures \(Practice direction\)](#)

[General presentation](#)

[Factsheet on interim measures](#)

Interim measures are granted by the Court only in clearly defined conditions, namely where there is a risk that serious violations of the Convention might occur. A high proportion of requests for interim measures are inappropriate and are therefore refused.

[Statistics on Interim measures](#)

[Interim measures by respondent State and country of destination](#)

How to contact the Court

The Court has established a dedicated Fax numbers for sending requests for interim measures: +33 (0)3 90 21 43 50
+33 (0)3 88 41 39 00

Please note that **failure to use one of these numbers may result in your request not being dealt with immediately**, especially during holiday periods. For this reason, please use one of the above numbers for all correspondence concerning interim measures.

Faxes and letters are received on:

- Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.*
- Requests sent after 4 p.m. will not normally be dealt with on that day. ([List of public holidays](#))

Requests must be set out as comprehensively and concisely as possible. However, it is recommended that any faxes exceeding ten pages be sent in several parts so that they can be received and processed in the best possible conditions.

* Local time (GMT + 1)

Information and documents to be attached to the request

Mark in bold on the first page of the document:

“Rule 39. Urgent”

Contact person (name and contact details): ...

In deportation or extradition cases, the following should also be specified:

Removal expected on (date, time and destination): ...

Provide a reasoned, specific and complete request.

Requests for interim measures must be submitted to the Court with the applicant’s consent and should preferably be accompanied by a properly completed application form. If the request is made by a representative, an authority form must be completed and sent immediately or within the next few days.

Attach a copy of all decisions relating to the request, in particular any relevant decisions by domestic courts, tribunals or other authorities.

Attach a copy of all other documents considered to substantiate the allegations submitted to the Court.

Following up requests

Once a request for interim measures has been submitted, the applicant or his or her representative is required to follow it up. In particular, it is essential that the Court is immediately informed of any change in the applicant’s administrative status or other circumstances (for example, if the applicant is granted a residence permit or returns to his or her country of origin). The applicant’s representative must also inform the Court promptly on his or her own initiative of any potential loss of contact with his or her client.