



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

Arrangements for conservation of and access to the archives of the European Court of Human Rights

The arrangements for the conservation and sorting of the judicial files of the European Court of Human Rights, together with the time-limits for declassification and the access procedures, are set out in detail in two separate instructions issued by the Court's Registrar on 1 July 2018 and 2 May 2019. These documents, which are not public, specify as follows.

Single-judge files are physically destroyed one year after the final decision. Committee, Chamber and Grand Chamber files are kept following the sorting process carried out five years after the decision or judgment terminating the case.

Correspondence and documents deposited with the Court's Registry in connection with a case are accessible to the public unless the relevant Chamber President decides otherwise pursuant to Rule 33 § 1 of the Rules of Court. Correspondence and documents deposited within the framework of friendly-settlement negotiations, and correspondence in cases examined by the Court before 1 November 1998, are confidential.

Confidential documents are accessible to the public 75 years after the date of the final decision or judgment in a case.



Arrangements for conservation of and access to the archives of the European Commission of Human Rights

The order amended by the President of the European Court of Human Rights on 6 December 2007, which is not public, lays down the arrangements for conservation and sorting of the administrative and judicial files dealt with by the European Commission of Human Rights, and for access thereto.

Decisions on admissibility are public.

The reports of the Commission are public where this is specified by a resolution of the Committee of Ministers or where the case was referred to the European Court of Human Rights.

Confidential documents are accessible to the public 75 years after the date of the final act taken in a case.