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Promoting greater transparency in the functioning of the European Court of Human Rights and strengthening its integrity framework

Reply to Written question¹: Written question No. 766 (Doc. 15315)
Committee of Ministers

1. In reply to the question put by the Honourable Parliamentarian, the Committee of Ministers notes that the European Convention on Human Rights provides that the Court shall draw up its own rules and determine its own procedure. Therefore, the Committee considers that it is not for it to take any action about the scope and functionality of the Court's rules. Nor can the Committee comment on individual cases.

2. The Committee notes that documents deposited with the Registrar are accessible to the public unless the President of the Court decides otherwise. All requests to access those documents must be made via the dedicated form available on the Court's website. In line with the measures taken by the Council of Europe in respect of the Covid-19 pandemic, case file consultations on the Court's premises have been suspended since March 2020 due to sanitary restrictions.

3. Finally, the Committee highlights that ethics is an essential issue for the Council of Europe. All members of the Court's Registry are required to adhere to strict conditions as to their independence and impartiality. The activities of Court staff, as for all staff of the Council of Europe, are governed by the internal regulations of the Organisation, which reflect a set of ethical values rooted in its culture with appropriate oversight and guidance (see <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ethics/home>).

1. Adopted at the 1424th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (9 February 2022).

