



Judgments concerning the Czech Republic and Ukraine

The European Court of Human Rights has today notified in writing the following four judgments, three of which (in italics) are Committee judgments and are final. The judgment in the case of **Růžový panter, o.s. v. the Czech Republic** (application no. 20240/08) is a Chamber judgment and is not final¹.

The judgments available only in French are indicated with an asterisk (*).

Růžový panter, o.s. v. the Czech Republic (application no. 20240/08)*

The applicant is an association domiciled in Prague, the aim of which is to fight corruption in public administration. On 4 October 2004, it published a press release on its website relating to light heating oils (referred to as LTO), a case concerning massive tax evasion which had received widespread media attention. The press release was in the form of a summons addressed to an MP and Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies, who subsequently became Interior Minister and who was invited to clarify his relationship with certain people. Relying in particular on Article 10 (freedom of expression), the association complained that the damages it had been ordered to pay for having published a press release containing allegedly defamatory remarks constituted a violation of its right to freedom of expression.

No violation of Article 10

Length-of-proceedings cases

In the following cases, the applicants complained in particular about the excessive length of (non-criminal) proceedings.

Gerzhik v. Ukraine (no. 40427/08)
Murdugova v. Ukraine (no. 28325/04)
Onopko v. Ukraine (no. 39878/05)

Violation of Article 6 § 1 (in all three cases)

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¹ Under Articles 43 and 44 of the Convention, Chamber judgments are not final. During the three-month period following a judgment's delivery, any party may request that the case be referred to the Grand Chamber of the Court. If such a request is made, a panel of five judges considers whether the case deserves further examination. In that event, the Grand Chamber will hear the case and deliver a final judgment. If the referral request is refused, the Chamber judgment will become final on that day. Under Article 28 of the Convention, judgments delivered by a Committee are final.

Once a judgment becomes final, it is transmitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for supervision of its execution. Further information about the execution process can be found here: www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/execution

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The European Court of Human Rights was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe Member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights.